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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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SOCER

VOL 16 No.723 - TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1995

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WEEKLY

\$2

Popovic
in
Germany

Will
he
sign?



SPECIAL INVESTIGATION:
The issue that is
bigger than the
Senate Inquiry

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WOMEN'S
WORLD
CUP
Four-page
Preview
LIFT-OUT

AJAX
dethrone
European
KINGS

PAGES 30-31

JOEYS
qualify
for
Ecuador

PAGE 4

Find-A-STAR

★ find-A-STAR ★ find-A-STAR ★



AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Answer the questions below then find the answers in the FIND-A-STAR above

- 1) Which veteran goalkeeper saved the day for Everton in this years FA Cup Final? _____
- 2) Which team did Everton beat in their last FA Cup Final Victory in 1984? _____
- 3) Everton captain Dave Watson enjoyed the distinction of holding aloft the FA Cup 10 years after holding the League Cup at Wembley when captain of which club? _____
- 4) Another milestone was set when a former Liverpool defender became the first player to win a Cup medal with both Merseyside clubs! Name the player? _____
- 5) Holland's PSV Eindhoven introduced its third Brazilian to the fray of its Premier League. The teenage sensation has now been compared to Pele! What is his name? _____
- 6) Before Pele's final match between the Cosmos and Santos, in which he played a half for each, which legendary black sportsman embraced him in the locker room and proclaimed, "Now here are two of the greatest!"? _____
- 7) Who was voted English Premier League's Player of the Year? _____
- 8) Who has taken Martin Vazquez's place as the youngest player ever to represent Real Madrid and has been hailed as the new Butragueno? _____
- 9) In the 1992 European Cup who scored the only goal for Barcelona securing their first ever European Cup title? _____
- 10) Which sports clothing brand sponsors Pele? _____

Compiled by Darren Ally

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STAR PROFILE No 60

Brendan Renaud

— PARRAMATTA EAGLES —



Date of Birth: 21/8/73

Birthplace: Sydney

Previous Clubs: Blacktown City

Position: Left midfielder

Nickname: "Rio", "Rex"

Marital Status: Single

Occupation: Full-time soccer player

Best Aspect Of Your Game: Workrate, determination

Most Difficult Opponent: Paul Wade

Most Impressive Local Player: Glenn Gwynne

Favourite Overseas Player: Paul Okon

Favourite Overseas Club: Liverpool

Honours: NSW U13, Olyroo train-on squad

Ambitions In Soccer: To play overseas and be a professional soccer player

Ambitions After Retiring: Coaching

Most Memorable Moment: Scoring in the 1993 National League Cup final against Sydney United

Hobbies Outside Soccer: Car rallying

Favourite Food: McDonalds

Favourite Drink: Coke

Car You Drive: Holden Gemini

Home Improvement: Rudy

Favourite TV Show: Cindy Crawford

Favourite Movie: Anything with a good beat

Preferred Music: Heavy Metal

Least Preferred Music: Billy Connolly

Favourite Comedian: Negative people

Pet Hates: Believe in yourself

Special Advice To Young Players: and go after your dreams

Person You Would Most Like To Meet: Pele

By ALFRED HIATT

Colombo back in Milan



BY JOHN ECONOMOS

Angelo Colombo, Marconi's highly-profiled right mid-fielder or sweeper, last Tuesday quietly flew out of Sydney and back to Italy after completing his one year contract with Marconi.

It was clearly understood that Marconi's newly appointed coach, Manfred Schaefer originally had no plans for Colombo to be included in his to be revitalised squad for next season.

But after taking the former A.C. Milan mid-fielder with Marconi to Queensland for two end of



Angelo Colombo: Returned to Milan last week.

season exhibition matches, Schaefer was greatly impressed by Colombo's intelligence, professionalism and constructive style of play.

Schaefer changed his mind and quickly informed the Marconi Board of Directors that he now wanted Colombo back for next season.

It is understood that Marconi then offered reduced terms to Colombo

prior to his departure last Tuesday to consider back in Italy, but nothing was agreed upon.

Colombo liked Australia's way of life very much and was tempted to stay.

It is also understood that Colombo has an option waiting for him back in Italy, (or more specifically in Japan), that involves him and Italy's World Cup captain, Franco Baresi.

Whilst playing with A.C. Milan, a very strong friendship was established between Colombo and

Milan's libero-captain Baresi.

Baresi who was expected to retire from playing with Milan after last week's European Cup Final loss against Ajax, has re-signed to play for Milan for one more season.

But Baresi originally planned to move across to Japan and link up with a J-league club as well as establish Soccer clinics across Japan together with Colombo as his partner.

Now everything is up in the air for Colombo with his future undecided.



Franco Baresi: Had planned to take Colombo in as a partner.

SCHAEFER TO REBUILD MARCONI

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

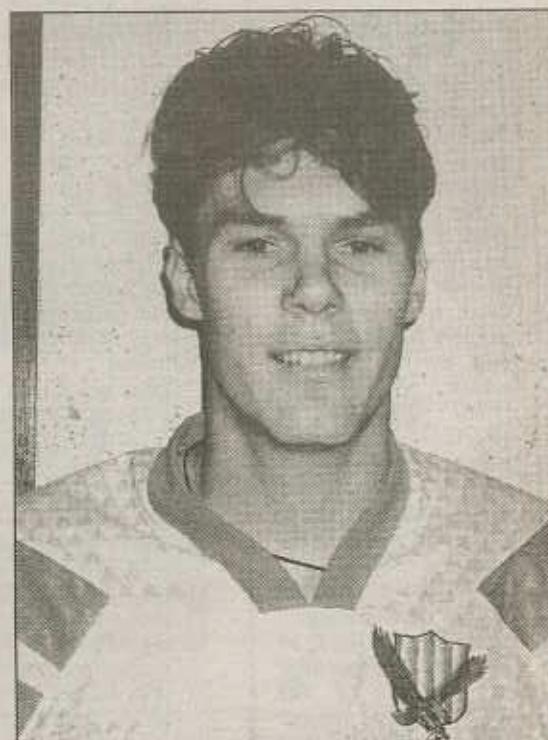
Manfred Schaefer, Marconi's newly appointed coach, has been entrusted with the difficult, if not dangerous, assignment of rebuilding glamour club Marconi back to the high levels its demanding supporters have been accustomed to.

And already Schaefer has made it crystal clear to Marconi's Soccer hierarchy that he wants to do it alone without an assistant-coach which Marconi has previously always had.

He has also made it clear that in the process of rebuilding Marconi, Schaefer wants to reduce the NSL squad from the current 23 playing-staff down to a far more manageable 17 or 18 man squad.

With the deadline of June 6th before the Compensation List comes out, Schaefer has targeted at least six of Marconi's older playing-staff members to discuss their immediate future, if any, with the Club.

Club captain and sweeper, Ian Gray, defenders Jean



Nick Orlic: Giant centre-back wanted by Marconi.

Paul De Marigny and Gary Van Egmond, strikers Andy Harper, Karon Taliadoros and Marshall Soper will all be interviewed by Schaefer this week.

It is understood that as far

as buying new material, Schaefer is more than just interested in Wollongong City's pacey World Youth striker, Robbie Middleby.

And even more recently, the towering centre-back Nick Orlic from Parramatta Eagles has attracted Schaefer's attention.

Orlic is understood to also be on Sydney United's and Sydney Olympic's shopping list during the off-season.

Meanwhile, Marconi has high hopes of enticing back to their dressing rooms their former star international striker, Frank Farina currently in the French first division with club side Lille.

The Club has already offered Farina terms but to date the flank-striker is still undecided.

Farina is expected back in Australia early next month.

Australia's national coach Eddie Thomson, has already expressed his desire to select Farina for the coming three international matches against the touring Ghanaians on June 18th, 21st and 23rd.



Frank Farina: Wanted by Marconi.

ZONE COACHES

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FUNDS FOR FOOD AND SHELTER

WA end Forest record

J-League leaders arrive in Oz

Leading Japanese J-League side Yokohama Marinos arrived for a two-week training camp in Brisbane.

The 60-strong party from the Marinos club, owned by the Nissan Motor Company, has come to Australia to prepare for the second half of its domestic season.

The J-League is structured so teams have a one-month break mid-season to allow international players to train with the Japanese national side and domestic teams to conduct training camps.

Marinos are sitting on top of the J-League after 16 rounds of the competition and with two national representatives and Argentinian World Cup player Ramon Mendina Bello in their ranks, they look set to stay there during the remaining 10 rounds.

The Japanese domestic competition is becoming one of the most prominent leagues in the world, with multinational companies owning a majority of the teams and attracting international players such as former England striker Gary Lineker.

Five-star Lazaridis impresses Nottingham Forest coach

Nottingham Forest was unable to hold off a determined challenge from Western Australia and was comprehensively beaten in the friendly played at the WACA Ground on Sunday night.

The State side matched the glamour English club in every facet of the game and winger Stan Lazaridis showed why he is held in such high regard throughout the world.

Lazaridis threatened the Forest defence on many occasions with his deft passing and sheer pace.

"Lazaridis is certainly a fine player and would be an asset to any English side," said Nottingham Forest manager Frank Clark. "We are certainly looking to bolster our attack with players of his class."

The Premier League club produced a team of quality players which but, in the absence of leading goalscorer Stan Collymore, found difficulty penetrating the defence of the West Australians.

Collymore and team-mate Colin Cooper cut short the Australian trip after learning of their recent selection in the England team.

The first goal of the match was produced in the 18th minute when a Paul McGregor cross found the head of striker Jason Lee to give Nottingham Forest the advantage.

By half-time the West Australians had managed to even the score through the boot of Lazaridis who waltzed past four defenders on his way to the net.

Constant pressure and some magnificent saves by former Australian goalie Robert Zabica had thwarted many promising Forest raids as the third placegetters from the English Premier Division looked to protect a 20-match unbeaten record.

Then, after 23 minutes of the second half, the task became a little more difficult when WA forward Slobodan Despotovski collected a cross from Lazaridis and slammed it into the net.

With such a proud record to protect the Forest players lifted the pace of the game in the final stanza and the WA net was peppered with high quality attempts.

Zabica withstood the barrage with brilliant diving saves.

The 20-match victory run, which included wins over the cream of English soccer, was terminated by a bunch of spirited local part-timers who are rapidly building their own reputations.



Stan Lazaridis: Waltzed past four defenders to score West Australia's first goal.

PETKOVIC PREVENTS ROUT

Nottingham Forest had to rely on a first-half own goal to beat Adelaide City last Wednesday despite completely dominating play from start to finish in a tour match.

The visitors won the match after a cross by Forest full-back Des Little rebounded off the shins of City's Mark Yates past stunned goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

Forest squandered dozens of scoring chances, with Ian Woan providing the spark for the visitors in the first half.

Despite the wasted chances, Clark was delighted with his team's effort and the performance of both teams in the cold, wet and windy conditions at Hindmarsh Stadium.

"I thought we played well in every aspect of the game other than finishing," Clark said.

"The attitude and commitment was superb from both sides who put in and made it an entertaining game even though it was only 1-0."

If it was not for Petkovic, the scoreline would have been much worse for City. He made three brilliant saves from shots by Jason Lee in the second half and his performance won praise from Clark, who insisted Forest was not on a scouting tour while in Australia.

"It's purely an end of season tour that's making a few pounds for the club and giving us five or six days holiday in Perth," he said.

"I'm not looking for any foreign players at the moment."

Joeys Qualify for World Cup

The hard work ended on Friday when the Australian Joeys beat New Zealand 1-0 in Vanuatu, but coach Les Scheinflug said the team had an even harder task ahead.

The Joeys automatically qualified for the August 4-20 under-17 world youth championship in Ecuador by winning the final of the Oceania qualifying tournament in Vila.

Australia's 1-0 was set up when talented midfielder Yane Talcevski who scored in the 64th minute.

"The hard work starts when you have to qualify for the championship, but now even harder

work starts because we will be among the top 16 teams in the world," Scheinflug said.

"We will be going up against teams like Brazil and Argentina, and there will be no easy matches."

The win was the third for Australia in the tournament, following a 4-0 result over Fiji and a 6-0 thrashing of the host team.

"We had five or six super chances (on Friday), including two open shots, but it was a bumpy surface. I think we felt the pressure a bit because we didn't get some early shots in," Scheinflug said.

He complimented Talcevski and

also the defence for their efforts, saying New Zealand had no real scoring chances.

Scheinflug said the team "did enough" in the tournament to qualify, but "we need to do a lot of work to be competitive in the World Cup."

He said he would meet with national coach Eddie Thomson and new Australian Soccer Federation chairman David Hill to finalise the team's program leading up to Ecuador.

Scheinflug wants the team to have three weeks of training

and competition at high altitudes immediately before the tournament.

"You can't just walk into a game at high altitude, like what we will have in Ecuador," he said.

He also will look at recruiting new players for the squad, which will have a camp at the end of June before finalising preparations for Ecuador.

Joeys thump Vanuatu 6-0

Australia trounced

Vanuatu 6-0 in the Oceania under-17 qualifying series semi-final in Vila last Wednesday.

The Joeys led 4-0 at half-time, with the avalanche starting in the first minute through a close-in header from captain Clayton Bell from a free-kick.

A Yane Talcevski blast from the edge of the penalty area made it 2-0 after seven minutes but to Vanuatu's credit, it didn't cave in and began to exert pressure on the Australian defence.

The Joeys were forced to play on the same pitch from two days earlier, but again intelligently moved the

ball away from the bumpy middle of the pitch.

Bell and Brett Emerton proved dangerous down the right flank, and Talcevski and Harry Kewell caused problems for the Vanuatu defence with speedy raids down the left wing.

The extreme humidity caused the game to be played at a much slower rate after the interval, Bell said.

SEMI-FINAL

AUSTRALIA 6
C Bell 1m, Y Talcevski
7m, M Cunico 43m
61m, D Allsopp 44m
55m) bt VANUATU 0.

Joeys kick-off with a bang

Australia was untroubled to beat Fiji 4-0 in the opening match of the Oceania Under 17 world qualifying series in Vanuatu last week.

The Joeys led 3-0 at half-time after a Daniel Allsopp double and a net volley from captain Clayton Bell with Michael Cunico adding the fourth just before full-time.

With the wind at their back, the Australians played to the wings to eliminate the bumpy middle of the pitch and frequently caught the Fijian defence.

Bell set up the opening goal in the ninth minute when his cross was headed into the net by Allsopp.

He picked up the second in similar fashion in the 24th minute from a cross by Yane Talcevski.

Allsopp completed his double 10 minutes later after a through pass from Bell while Cunico was in position to slot in the fourth after Michael Galluzzo had completed the leadup work.

"Fiji played a lot of long balls and we kept them on the run. But their defence was fast and matched our strikers," said Bell from Vila.

"We out-ran them in a lot of areas which gave us openings to get behind their defence. It was a good workout for the next match."

Marconi unhappy with Corica

"All these trials have left our player unsettled and us unhappy"

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

STEVE CORICA, Marconi's dynamic international pacy striker, has left his Club bewildered with his recent European crusades.

Corica, who over recent months has made three quick trips to Germany, France and England for trials, is still undecided about his future.

And Marconi officials are not too happy with this uncertain situation.



Steve Corica: Determined not to return without an overseas contract.



MARK SCHWARZER

Meanwhile, Marconi's headaches continue with yet another of its players in Europe.

Giant blond World Cup goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer who was sold to German first division side Dynamo Dresden more than a year ago for almost \$350,000, could soon return to the Sydney based club.

Dynamo Dresden who is reported to be plagued with debts totalling over \$7 million and has recently been expelled from the German Bundesliga and banished into the Amateur division, still owes Marconi a final instalment of \$100,000 for Schwarzer's transfer.

Dresden finished the season languishing at the bottom of the German League with big Mark having played only two games in the first team.



Mark Schwarzer: could be repossessed by Marconi.

Four weeks ago Corica again flew to Europe (third time) to trial with French side Strasbourg and a week later flew across to Germany to trial with Hamburg and second division side, Nuremberg.

Both German clubs seem interested in Corica but the Marconi club has still to receive any firm offers for their champion striker.

Last Tuesday Marconi were requested to scramble through a one-game clearance allowing Corica to play for Nuremberg in a German Cup match.

Corica played and even managed to get himself on the scoresheet.

But since then, despite numerous attempts by Marconi to contact him, Corica has failed to answer Marconi's calls.

A Marconi Director stated last night: "Our Club is certainly not too happy with the whole situation and it is most disturbing for us."

"All these various trials and quick trips to Europe have done nothing but to unsettle and frustrate Steve."

"Before he left us this last time, he told us that he wouldn't be back until he cracked a contract with a European club."

"It has become most obvious to us that the people handling and advising Corica had really nothing definite fixed up for him in the first place."

"All these trials have left our player unsettled and us unhappy."

"But very soon, Marconi will step in and put a stop to this ludicrous situation," threatened the most concerned Marconi official.

REAL MADRID CHASE VIDUKA

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MARK VIDUKA, Australia's League and international goal-scoring machine, despite his illustrious and consistent reputation, has managed to attract only one genuine offer from an overseas club.



Mark Viduka: Fails to attract Australian record transfer.

The giant targetman who finished the last two League seasons as Australia's top goalscorer, is currently on trials in Croatia at Zagreb together with Melbourne Knights' sweeper, Steve Horvat.

Viduka is believed to have attracted the attention of giant Spanish outfit, Real Madrid.

But it is also surprisingly understood that Real Madrid has only offered the Melbourne Knights a paltry \$500,000 for his transfer.

This figure is a far cry of recent media rumours that Viduka's signature on a European contract would attract anything from \$1 million to even as high as \$5 million that was recently lavished upon him by a Sydney newspaper.

The Australian Youth team skipper is expected back in Melbourne tomorrow (Wednesday) to go into a training camp with the Melbourne Knights.

As Australia's new League champions, the Knights have to prepare for their trip to Japan for their two matches against J-League sides Jubilo-Iwata on the 7th of June and Yokohama Flugels three days later.

The eventual winner will collect as well as a trophy, the rich cash prize of US\$100,000.

The Knights' coach, Mirko Bazic, also in Croatia on holidays since the Grand Final earlier this month, is due back in Melbourne this week to prepare the Knights for their Japan crusade.

Popovic impresses German club

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

TONY POPOVIC, Sydney United's outstanding free-back and captain, currently on trials with German club side F.C.Cologne, has greatly impressed the German coaching staff there over the past two weeks.

The cultured sweeper and Australia's central marker, is expected to return to Sydney in two weeks to prepare with the Australian team for the coming three internationals against the touring Ghanaians.

Sydney United's young coach, Branko Culina was in two minds over the future of his highly talented captain.

Culina stated to ABSW last night: "Of course we would love to see Tony make it in Germany. But how does one



go about replacing a player with his ability and attitude at Sydney United?"

"I have been in contact with Tony and he tells me he likes it over there very much and doing well in the trials according to his German coaches.

"He wants a clearance to play in three friendly matches there over the next week or so," stated Culina.

Culina over the next month or so is expected to make some changes to his NSL squad for next season.

"Already I have lost veteran midfielder, Ivan Petkovic who has announced his retirement.

"I do have a young squad and there is no real necessity to rebuild."

"But if we are expected to go further, we have to extend on the material that we have to strongly challenge for honours next season," ended Culina.

Sydney United is understood to be asking a very modest \$350,000 for the transfer of their strapping 22-year-old Popovic, which readily seems disgustingly cheap.

The highly talented attacking defender is only one of a few 'dynamic' sweepers in the NSL whilst most clubs have to be content with having only 'static' sweepers on their books.

A natural team leader, organiser, goalscorer and skilled in attacks with solid experience despite his youth being well on his side, the cultured Popovic would be expected to be valued at well over \$500,000.



Ivan Petkovic: Announced his retirement



Tony Popovic: Has German coaching staff impressed.



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Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.



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INCLUSIVITY IS THE KEY

Dear Sir,
I was dumbfounded by Natalija Krsticevic's letter (16/5). Surely it is written in jest! Such narrow, ethnocentric views are stifling the game in this country.

Natalija's letter makes an *inane* plea for the (Croatian) fans' rights to be considered. What about the rights of the game?

Think about it. Soccer deserves (and if it is to survive, needs), more than the few thousand who turn up to games at present. If views of the ilk of Kresticevic prevail, then fans will continue to stay away and Australian soccer and will continue to be the poor relation to, if not the laughing stock of, the other codes.

The only solution is inclusivity. People, whatever their origin, must be encouraged to attend matches. The moment you make it ethnic — exclusive ("Croatian Knights", Chilean Panthers, Mexican Ducks or whatever) you do just that: exclude all those potential fans who do not relate to that particular

group. Thus, ultimately both the fans and the game suffer (have we forgotten the Preston incident a few years ago?)

Furthermore Natalija, consider this. You live in the best country in the world and enjoy its peace, prosperity and a quality of life that is arguably second to none.

In spite of this you seek, through sport, to promote another nation above that of your domicile. Unbelievable! If I was a cynic I would say that if this other nation is so great, why not return? Luckily I am not a cynic.

Also Natalija you make an obscure reference to "injustice". The reason the Knights have not won past titles is simple, they have not been good enough. This season they were and good luck to them. "Justice" has nothing to do with it.

So Natalija let us hope that David Hill can provide a new direction for soccer, one that seeks to include all Australians and betters the code in our great land.

Stephen Plummer,
Caloundra Qld.

LUCKY HILL

Dear Sir,
We are indeed lucky to have David Hill at the helm, and I strongly believe that he will succeed in putting Football (soccer) in its rightful place.

Elsewhere I read that we should aim at attracting mainstream Australian audience.

Very well, but since football at junior player level we outnumber those of every other code put together, and assuming they are mainstream Australians, how about if their parents attend matches at senior level?...the basis of a good crowd I would think.

This is an area where we need to work on, like for example, giving the players participating fixtures to pass on to their parents with some sort of a message...like 'see you at the game'.

Finally, I am sure we can overcome the hard work ahead...so good luck fellas.

Joe Tonna,
Pascoe Vale, Vic.

BACKYARD PROBLEM



Dear Sir,

The recent Summit of Soccer in Melbourne was no doubt the first real attempt to get Australian Soccer out of a depressing state and into the future.

With the new chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation, David Hill a very credible leader, it is with hope in our hearts that things will happen.

We in Lismore unfortunately, as always, missed an opportunity to attend but indecision, cost and distance are our enemy in most situations.

The major problems are easy to identify and it is rather a matter of blinkers, treachery and sports political disgrace, that we cannot agree.

The following points are facts:

1. Incompetence to date of administration on the highest level.

2. Ethnic hijacking of the game and National League, with disgusting nationalistic outbursts, flag waving and discrimination of Australian spectators, players and administrators.

3. Sell-out of the highest quality Australian talent and the alleged corruption on the transfer market.

4. Failure to establish a professional league, to attract media and sponsor interest and compete with other sports.

It is imperative that we make soccer in this multicultural country a

game for all Australians bare of fanatical ethnic emphasis and warring administration.

We in the country feel the negatives most. The examples are our desperate attempts to get telecasts of the Youth World Cup in Qatar, the National Soccer League Final or the FA Cup Final from Wembley.

All attempts with SBS, NBN, ABC, ASF, Harry Woods, our Federal Member, other sport media or political authorities were fruitless. We were passed on, lied to and left out. Loyalty to rugby league and Australian Rules were mentioned. Perhaps soccer's problem starts in each one's backyard and we must look at this opportune time at ourselves.

Here are points and black marks affecting our administrators.

1. Fighting and bickering between Federations, Branches, Associations and clubs.

2. Over emphasis on Junior soccer and Representative Status,

Incompetence when it comes to promoting Senior soccer on a higher plane.

3. Apathy or self interest.

As long as we have the NSW Soccer Federation, The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, the Northern NSW Soccer Federation, diverse Branches and dormant or warring associations, a very questionable Council of Associations, a puppet of its superior body, and barely in agreement, we will fail.

Junior Super League as an example is too costly, too involving and leads nowhere. Exhausted Juniors, perhaps?

We seriously and honestly need to look at the opportunities for our players, once they leave our district, where soccer has been promoted with at least a serious attempt. We cannot continue to promise and lie and tell them of a future in soccer when up to date there has been nothing.

The good news is that the Lismore District administration, the Clubs within our region, the players and followers are in harmony and doing the game proud. Yet it is for all of us to make sure that this Greatest Game in the whole world is treated with respect and is given a fair go in Australia.

Armin R. Sandmann,
Lismore, NSW

OZ SOCCER SUMMIT '95

Dear Sir,

I wish to advise the fans of Australia what they can look forward to following the summit. Not the clubs, not the players or administrators, but the fans. And by fans I don't just mean the regular NSL attendance. I also include the tens of thousands who go to 3 or 4 NSL games a year, probably a final, and of course most internationals.

In our capacity as "Studs Up" we half-paid our way in to an absorbing three days of general discussion, speculation, exaggeration, self-admiration and ignorance.

During the marketing discussion it became apparent that market research on soccer's consumers was virtually non-existent. Presumably we can look forward to being polled in future. Hopefully they won't ask us who our favourite player is or should we change the nickname of the women's team.

It was conceded that stadium facilities are generally crap, and there were noises about ground rationalization and double-headers at the SFS. Hmm... I'd like to see that it was agreed by many delegates that the standard of play served up by the club (with 3 or 4 notable exceptions) is crap and so we assume the clubs can decide their own admission prices.

Television remains a wild card with a need to expand beyond SBS an almost universal view. But plenty of key people seemed fairly coy, so stay tuned...

Many more international matches are to be played, with a target of 16 per year (12 at home), and they are to be played at a variety of venues, so more fans will be able to see the Socceroos 'live'.

In general, the feeling was one of optimism, with a realisation that we must get the chip off our shoulders. Soccer is a great game, but in Australia it has become fragmented through the various vested interests seeking political advantage over their colleagues.

After three days I think we can safely say there are now only two factions. The old and the new. The old have had 20 years to get it right, and their time has expired.

The new broom sweeping through the ASF will ensure that soccer has a great future. We should be thankful that the 'new blood' care enough to get involved. We should also be thankful that in future, they have promised to listen to the fans.

Kevin Christopher,
Editor — 'Studs Up'

Pride is at home



Ethnic flag waving and chanting should be completely banned according to Victorian reader Leon Keramatis.

send across that taints our beloved sport.

When people use soccer as a political vehicle to promote an ethnic group or denigrate another — this is where it harms the game.

What is so great about hearing groups of rival supporters chant racial

abuse to each other and players?

The fact that administrators of most clubs let this sort of thing go on is also a very sad situation. This issue needs to be addressed, attitudes need to change.

Correct me if I am wrong but Natalija sums up her sentiments

perfectly in her last sentence — 'From a jubilant Croatian supporter.'

Well for my final sentence I will sign off with — From a proud AUSTRALIAN Soccer Supporter.

Leon Keramatis,
East Doncaster, Vic.



OLYROOS GIVE HAMMERS HIDING

Four of the best embarrass tourists

BY STEELE TALLON
OF AAP

The Australian Olyroos squared up their series with touring English Premier League side West Ham United with a resounding 4-0 win here at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

A penalty just before half time by captain Kevin Muscat and second-half goals by Goran Lovanovski, Daniel Tiatto and Josip Skoko gave the Olyroos a

well-deserved victory and avenged the Australian's 1-0 loss to the Hammers in Sydney on Wednesday.

The Olyroos dominated possession in the first half against a lacklustre West Ham side but, like in the opening match, could not convert their chances.

Olyroo forward Joe Spiteri was the standout performer early as he cut a swathe through the tourists' defence, forcing a number of outstanding saves from West Ham goalkeeper Ian Feuer.

However, it was not until

Spiteri was taken off with a leg injury close to half-time that the Australian's found some reward for their attacking endeavour.

An incisive run into the West Ham penalty area by right midfielder Goran Lozanovski forced a handball from defender Simon Webster and referee Derek Crawford awarded a spot kick.

Olyroo captain Kevin Muscat stepped up and slotted home the penalty to give the young Australians a 1-0 lead going into the break.

The home side came out full of running after half time and, with their combination beginning to come together after a four-month break, did not have to wait long for a second goal.

Nine minutes into the half, Olyroo forward Joe Bacac launched into a scorching drive from 30 metres out, which Feuer could only parry away to the waiting feet of Lozanovski.

He made no mistake with the put-away.

Only two minutes later, the Australians were at it again with Bacic hitting a perfectly-weighted cross from the right wing into the West Ham penalty area which Feuer again could only tip away.

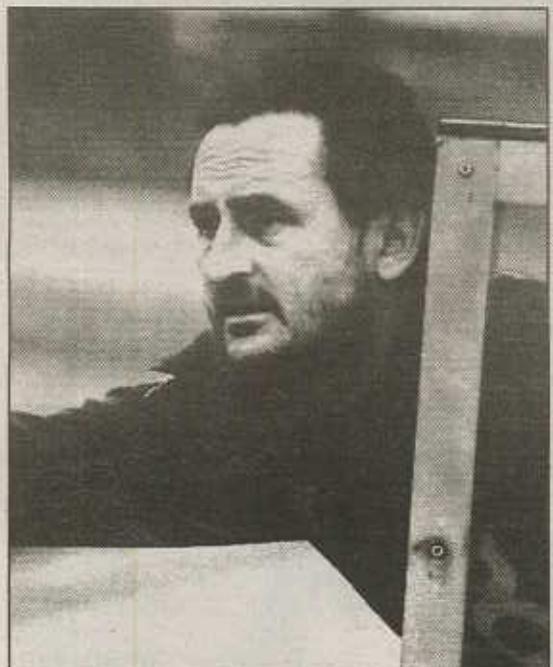
Midfielder Daniel Tiatto was on hand to slam home a precision finish which delighted the 6,900 crowd on



Daniel Tiatto: The Olyroo midfielder scored a second-half goal. He is pictured here playing for Victoria against the Hammers 10 days ago.

hand.

A well-struck shot from 25 metres by Olyroo replacement Josip Skoko 10 minutes from time completed the scoring and wrapped up a comprehensive win for the Australians against a West Ham side lacking a number of its stars including Julian Dicks and Tony Cottee.



A bad day for West Ham: Assistant coach Frank Lampard shows the strain during the match.

Having already profiled would-be NSL teams Blacktown City, Leichhardt Tigers and Newcastle Breakers, ALFRED HIATT looks at the credentials of Port Melbourne and Preston Lions

The relegation of the Preston Lions from the National League in 1993 seemed like the end of an era.

But the club is determined to prove it was merely the beginning of a bright new era.

The Lions have the playing strength, financial stability, and supporter base to survive in the NSL this time around, according to club secretary Nik Petros.

"We have got ourselves a good youth development structure, so we have no problem churning out players," says Petros.

"We are financially stable, and that creates stability on the field."

"We have restructured and set the scene for the next five to 10 years."



Port Melbourne, runaway leaders of the 1995 Victorian Premier League, have set their sights beyond the State scene.

The Sharks, riding high on their success since winning promotion to the



Premier League in 1994, believe they are the logical replacement for Heidelberg United in the NSL.

"We see ourselves as the second strongest Greek-backed Melbourne club," says Port Melbourne secretary Les Poutselas.

Poutselas insists the Sharks' form in the Premier League is proof of their readiness to step up to national competition.

He admits the club's application was rushed, but vows the club will apply next year if its bid is unsuccessful.

"It is the choice of the NSL whether they drop Heidelberg, but even if we are knocked back this time, we'll try again next year."

"I believe we wouldn't want a club like Preston going up there, when they are still carrying political slogans," adds Poutselas.

PRESTON LIONS

FACT
Name: Preston Lions
Club Colours: Red, Black, Yellow
NSL Ground: Melbourne Croatian Sports Centre (until ground developments at Connor Reserve are completed)
Coach: Announcement expected soon

* Preston, relegated from the National League in 1993, are the reigning Victorian Premier League champions.
* The Lions say they are on the verge of signing a European coach.
* Preston claim they have the largest supporter base of any Macedonian-backed club outside of Macedonia.
* The club's ground, Connor Reserve, is about to undergo major renovations.
* A \$50,000 drainage system will be constructed at the end of the season, and the club is negotiating with its local council to improve the lighting and grandstand at the ground.
* If Preston are promoted they will play at the Melbourne Knights' home ground on Somers Street.

THOMMO HAPPY WITH 4-0

Olyroo coach Eddie Thomson said the win was a vast improvement on Wednesday night's loss.

"Things really came together well, I'm overjoyed with the win," he said.

"We looked very dangerous around goal and the combination was definitely coming together, especially in the second half.

"We bagged four and should have had another four, the boy's were playing with a lot of confidence and knocking through some magic touches.

"West Ham looked a bit tired, probably because it was their fourth match in 10 days, but it was still a valuable experience for us.

"We still have players like Mark Viduka and Craig Moore to come back into the squad, so everything looks healthy."

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp said the Australians had lifted a gear from the first match and were deserved winners.

"We had a side out there that had a lot of young players who I wanted to look at, and none of them really impressed me," he said.

"But that's not taking anything away from the Aussies. They played very well and would have to be odds-on to make the Olympics if they play like they did tonight.

"I'd say a large number of their blokes out there tonight could come over and play in England, no problems."

"Eddie (Thomson) has a good development system set up and you can see the talent it produces."

The Olyroos face up to the Oceania qualifying series for the Olympics in January and if successful move onto the final qualifiers against the North American zone's best loser in February or March.



Eddie Thomson:
Overjoyed.

PORT MELBOURNE

FACT
Name: Port Melbourne Sharks
Playing Strip: Red, Blue
Ground: SS Anderson Reserve
Coach: Takis Savigos

* Port Melbourne are in their second season in the Victorian Premier League.
* The club reached the Grand Final last year, and have amassed a large lead in this year's competition.
* The Sharks will consider moving to a more suitable ground in the Port Phillip Bay area of Melbourne, if they are admitted to the NSL.
* Port see themselves as the number two Greek-backed club in Melbourne, behind South Melbourne and ahead of Heidelberg United.
* The club is negotiating a sponsorship deal which would finance its entry to the NSL.
* Port Melbourne say they will only look for two or three new players to boost their ranks, should they play in the next National League season.

Why the future of

Forget the Senate Inquiry into corruption in soccer. The biggest and most divisive issue in Australian soccer — the one that will affect all players and clubs, and has the potential to change the game for the next 20 years — is the future of the transfer system.

The campaign to abolish transfer fees waged by the Australian Unity Soccer Players' Association (AUSPA) has pitted players against their coaches, clubs, and the Australian Soccer Federation.

Inevitably perhaps, given the passionate beliefs of both sides, the dispute has ended up before the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC), which is expected to decide next month whether to grant the union's application for an interim award abolishing compensation fees.

But the issue simply will not go away — no matter whether the Commission decides in favour of AUSPA, and allows players whose contracts have

SPECIAL INVESTIGATION



By Alfred Hiatt
on the issue that many believe is more divisive and has greater repercussions than the Senate Inquiry.

expired to move freely between clubs, or sides with the ASF and upholds the status quo.

The AUSPA and the clubs have no problem agreeing on one thing: the transfer system lies at the heart of Australian soccer.

But there the common ground ends.

According to the Players' Association, transfer fees are the root cause of mismanagement and injustice within the game.

Ask the clubs and the ASF, and they'll tell you most of the good things about soccer in Australia — junior development, financial

stability, player loyalty, and competitiveness — will be lost if transfer fees disappear.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Both parties admit the IRC decision will not end the matter, and that further negotiation is unavoidable.

In fact, it could be just the beginning of a detailed process which will hammer out the conditions of employment of soccer players in this country for a long time to come.

If the Commission does abolish transfer fees for

players who are out of contract, the union will be able to negotiate from a position of strength.

Their basic point — that the transfer system is an injustice and must be reformed, if not abolished completely — will become the basis for a new system. That new system will include free agency for players whose contracts have expired.

Indeed, the Players' Association has vowed to continue to fight the system, even if the Commission backs the ASF.

AUSPA says it is only acting on the wishes of its members, who have overwhelmingly called for the abolition of transfer fees.

In turn, the ASF is adamant the clubs have unanimously opposed any change to the existing system.

The view that freedom for players out of contract spells disaster for the game is shared by most NSL coaches.

Zoran Matic, Adelaide City coach for the last 10 seasons, insists: "There will



David Barrett: "Players are treated like pieces of meat."

be instability, because players will be changing clubs every year and teams won't have settled squads."

"It would be a disaster," agrees Sydney United's Branko Culina.

Culina told the

Commission the contribution of clubs to players would go unrecognised in a free market.

"Some coaches would go out and buy a team," he claimed.

Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell is also worried about the effect changes to the system may have on junior development.

"It would be a sad day when the opportunity of clubs to sell players disappears totally," says Stowell.

"Clubs will look around and take in better and more experienced players. I don't think that is a good thing."

"You can get a super player like Steve Corica. [Free agency] is not fair to the club which has taken the time to bring him on. There's no way that club can hold him."

But talk to the players who have first-hand experience of the transfer system and you get a different story.

"Within Australia [the transfer system] should be abolished," says senior Sydney Olympic full-back David Barrett.

"Players are treated like pieces of meat."

Barrett's views are backed up by Graham Dabscheck, an Associate Professor of Industrial

The Club's View...

There is no more vocal critic than Zoran Matic of the Australian Soccer Players' Association's bid to reform the transfer system.

Matic, the most successful club coach in Australia, compared a system without compensation fees to prostitution, in his regular Sports Weekly magazine column.

When Matic talks, people listen — so it is no surprise that the ASF called him to appear as a witness before the Industrial Relations Commission hearing, where he clashed heatedly with Players' Association lawyer, Mark Ryan.

The 1994/95 Coach of the Year remains convinced the changes proposed by the union will have a disastrous effect on the game.

"A free market won't give players the incentive to be better players. It will give them the incentive to be greedy players," Matic says.

"The quality [of the National League] will go down. There will be instability, because players will be changing clubs every year and teams won't have settled squads."

However Matic, who is standing down as Adelaide City coach after 10 years in charge, says the abolition of compensation fees would have little effect on the Zebras.

"Players very rarely leave Adelaide City, usually only to retire or go overseas."



Zoran Matic: "Players will be changing clubs every year and teams won't have settled squads."

"But how are the poorer clubs going to cope? It costs us around \$100,000 to produce juniors, but for the same amount you could buy three top Australian players."

Matic does not believe the current transfer system is perfect. However, he is worried the changes pushed for by the union will help the players, but punish the people who sacrifice time and money to keep clubs afloat.

"How can we have overpaid players and coaches, when we've got people selling coffee for 50 cents to pay players their earnings?" he asks.

"At the moment, players are paid more than they draw through the gate."

"I would like to see another system better than [the current system], which would preserve quality, and protect volunteers who are there because they love the game and want to help it."

Future of the hands of two

The immediate future of player-club relations in Australian soccer is currently in the hands of three industrial relations commissioners who have, in all probability, never watched a NSL match in their lives.

The commissioners, two male and one female, have been asked to arbitrate on the future of the transfer system because negotiations broke down between the Australian Soccer Federation and the Australian Unity Soccer Players' Association.

When negotiations failed, the Players' Association, part of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA), asked the Industrial Relations Commission (IRC) for an interim award.

An interim award, unlike a full award, grants temporary relief from an injustice. However, in practice an interim award often forms the basis for further negotiations and can even end up having the same effect as a full award.

Both the MEAA and the ASF were represented by lawyers during proceedings before the Commission.

The IRC is an administrative body, not a judicial one, which means it does not have the same powers as a court. However, it does have the power to arbitrate in disputes between employers and employees.

The interim award called for



Greg Brown: The Queensland Academy of Sport coach and former NSL player gave evidence for the Players' Union.

by the MEAA would abolish compensation fees. Under the present system, compensation fees are paid to a club when a player's contract has expired and he moves on to another club.

If the award is granted, players will be able to move freely between clubs if they are not bound by a contract.

The MEAA called as witnesses players such as Olyroo Joe Spiteri, and NSL stars John

Koch, Greg Brown, and Players Association chief executive Kimon Taliadoros to explain the injustice of the transfer system.

In response, the ASF called top coaches Zoran Matic and Branko Culina, along with administrators George Vasilopoulos, Alan Vessey, and Sam Vella to testify to the damage the abolition of compensation fees would do to

All stories by

PLAYER V CLUB

the NSL is at stake

Relations at the University of New South Wales who was called before the IRC by the Players' Association to appear as an expert witness.

Dabscheck has been a fierce critic over the past two years of the employment conditions endured by soccer players.

Without hesitation he calls the transfer system a "slave trade".

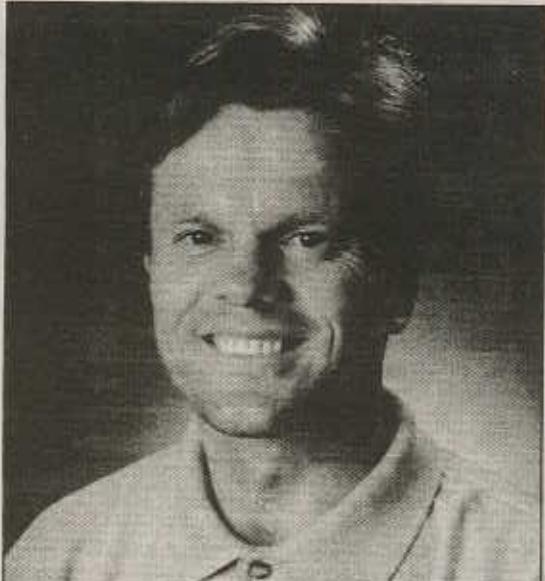
"What we're talking about is buying and selling people," says Dabscheck.

"At the moment clubs have an interest in selling players, and players can't wait to go overseas.

The key thing is that the transfer and compensation system has got to go, and Australian soccer has got to look for ways to retain its best players."

Dabscheck, who believes there is no legal basis to support the transfer system, argues transfer fees have made the NSL a "highly uncompetitive" league.

To prove his point he compares soccer with other sports which allow out of contract players to move



Branko Culina: "Some coaches would go out and buy a team."

SOCER AT CROSSROADS

For many, soccer in Australia is at a crossroads.

The arrival of David Hill as ASF chairman, and the general enthusiasm for change which emerged from the Oz Soccer Summit '95, appear to indicate the "sea-change" called for by the controversial Stewart

freely between clubs. He told the Commission that rugby league, Australian rules, and basketball all had extremely competitive leagues because they allowed players more freedom.

"In every case the league has prospered and grown [without transfer fees], because it has become more efficient," says Dabscheck.

Report will not be long in coming.

To clubs, coaches and administrators, the abolition of transfer fees is the wrong sort of change. They say it will cause huge damage and bring disorder to the game.

To a large number of players, transfer fees are precisely what is holding back soccer. They say abolition would allow a greater maturity to enter player-club relations, and even pave the way for full professionalism.

One thing is certain. The IRC's decision will have an immediate impact on the game.

The majority of NSL players come off their contracts on June 7, and they will be waiting keenly for the outcome of the battle between their union and their employers.

They will either find themselves in a market where they are free to negotiate with their own or other clubs without the threat of a compensation fee. Or they will be condemned to remain shackled by a system they detest.

WHAT ARE COMPENSATION FEES?

Under the present system, compensation fees are paid when a player's contract has expired and he wishes to join a new club.

The player's old club can demand a compensation fee, so called because the money is meant to compensate a club for the cash it has spent training and developing its player.

The difference between compensation fees, which the Players' Association are seeking to have abolished, and transfer fees is that transfer fees are paid when a player is still under contract with a club.

Take Socceroo midfielder Jason Polak as an example.

Let's say Polak wants to leave glamour club South Melbourne and join Parramatta Eagles.

If Polak is under contract South can place a fee on his head (a "transfer fee") based

on his market value. If Parramatta can't pay it, Polak will stay with the Blues.

But what if Polak is out of contract?

In that case, under the present system, South are still within their rights to place a fee on his head, this time based on the money they have invested training and developing him (a "compensation fee"). Again, Parramatta must pay it, or Polak will remain a South Melbourne player.

If Polak is unhappy he has the option of going before the Compensation Fee Tribunal to argue his case.

The problem with the compensation fee argument is that compensation fees are, in fact, assessed on the basis of market value — not how much money clubs have spent on training and development.

This point was acknowledged by

Compensation Fee Tribunal chairman Aldo Lorrenzutta before the Industrial Relations Commission.

In practice, of course, clubs can ask compensation fees for players who were recruited as senior, fully-developed players — not just players who have come up through the junior ranks.

Lorrenzutta said clubs don't only contribute to the increase of standard of a player but also to maintaining that standard.

"It would be extraordinary for us to say a club has contributed less than 50 per cent [to a player's development]," he commented.

Depending on which side you listen to, the system either unjustly restricts the rights of players to seek employment from clubs — or provides a necessary source of income for clubs with strong junior development programs.

game in the men & a woman



Joe Spiteri: Used as a witness by the Players' Union.

Australian soccer.

The MEAA sought to prove compensation fees unjustly restrict players' freedom of movement and employment, and create hardships for players.

The MEAA told the Commission there was no chance that the National League would suffer or be destroyed if compensation fees were abolished.

Alfred Hiatt

The Commission heard compensation fees were a "severe fetter" on players, and that the Compensation Fee Tribunal (the body which determines compensation fees) dispensed "rough justice".

The MEAA argued that the system is about buying and selling players — not about compensating clubs for losing players who have come up through the junior ranks.

It also cited the Stewart

Report, as evidence the transfer system contributes to corruption within soccer.

Industrial relations expert, Associate Professor Braham Dabscheck, gave evidence the transfer system stifles competition between clubs. He argued the abolition of the transfer system would allow poorer clubs the opportunity to recruit players who are not wanted by richer clubs.

The ASF, which was representing the clubs, said the transfer system was long-standing and should not be abolished in a cavalier manner.

It produced evidence to show the system was crucial to the development of clubs, and the well-being of the game in Australia.

The Commission heard the abolition of compensation fees would create instability in the NSL, because compensation fees provide a necessary reward for clubs which spend money on training and developing junior players.

In a technical argument, the ASF questioned whether an interim award was an appropriate way of dealing with the case.

The Commission is currently considering these issues and has reserved its decision.

However, the commissioners indicated they were mindful that on June 7 the majority of players come off their contracts, so a decision is expected soon.

The Player's View...

Qne of the great myths of Australian soccer is the argument that the abolition of compensation fees will ruin the NSL, according to Kimon Taliadoros.

Taliadoros, chief executive of the Australian Unity Soccer Players' Association, is adamant his organisation wants only the best for the game.

It is for the good of the game, he says, that the transfer system — and, in particular, compensation fees — must be abolished.

"The transfer system has operated to put a lot of younger players out of the game," maintains Taliadoros.

"Its abolition will offer young players, who are not particularly wanted by the clubs which have developed them, the opportunity to play."

"We want the best players playing, because that's the best for the league."

The Players' Association, a branch of the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, argued before the Industrial Relations Commission that the transfer system is obviously unjust.

It also produced evidence designed to show the transfer system had promoted a league which is dominated by a handful of clubs.

Taliadoros believes the NSL will be more



Kimon Taliadoros: "The onus will be on the employers to show players why they should stay with the club."

competitive if the Commission grants the relief the players are seeking. And he says claims that players would leave clubs en masse are greatly exaggerated.

"If the Commission grants the interim award then all players on compensation lists will be free to join the employer of their choice."

"But I believe players have a clear preference for their [current] employers. However, the onus will now be on the employers to show players why they should stay with a club," said Taliadoros.

One of the central arguments used by the clubs and the ASF in defending the transfer system is that its abolition would leave clubs with no

incentive to produce junior talent.

But Taliadoros describes this as "a fallacy and a nonsense".

"The most successful club on the transfer market over the last four years has been the Parramatta Eagles. But their income from compensation fees has amounted to less than 5 per cent of their total income."

"So how can compensation fees be integral to junior development?" asks Taliadoros.

"After all, many clubs lose on the transfer market."

"I can't see [the abolition of compensation fees] being particularly significant for clubs' junior development programs. If it was, I'd question their management strategy."

ROUND 15 SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE									
*Leichhardt Tigers	N/A	St George	N/A						
**Mt Druitt Town	N/A	Warringah	N/A						
Illawarra Lions	1	Mt Druitt Town	2						
Sutherland Sharks	0	Leichhardt Tigers	0						
Blacktown City	1	Rockdale Suns	1						
Macarthur Rams	3	Adamstown R'bud	0						
Canterbury Berries	1	Stanmore Hawks	0						
St George Saints	1	Warringah	1						
Bankstown City	2	Bonnyrigg WE	2						
UNDER 21									
*Leichhardt Tigers	2	St George	1						
**Mt Druitt Town	N/A	Warringah	N/A						
Illawarra Lions	2	Mt Druitt Town	2						
Sutherland Sharks	1	Leichhardt Tigers	4						
Blacktown City	3	Rockdale Suns	0						
Macarthur Rams	2	Adamstown R'bud	2						
Canterbury Berries	0	Stanmore Hawks	2						
St George Saints	1	Warringah	3						
Bankstown City	P	Bonnyrigg WE	P						
UNDER 18									
*Leichhardt Tigers	0	St George	1						
**Mt Druitt Town	P	Warringah	P						
Illawarra Lions	0	Mt Druitt Town	5						
Sutherland Sharks	0	Leichhardt Tigers	2						
Blacktown City	5	Rockdale Suns	3						
Macarthur Rams	2	Adamstown R'bud	3						
Canterbury Berries	3	Stanmore Hawks	0						
St George Saints	2	Warringah	0						
Bankstown City	P	Bonnyrigg WE	P						
SUPER LEAGUE 1ST GRADE									
Warringah	14	9	3	0	2	27	11	16	33
Blacktown City	14	10	1	0	3	22	9	13	32
Canterbury M'vill	14	6	3	2	3	16	16	0	26
*Bankstown City	13	6	3	0	4	26	20	6	24
Leichhardt Tigers	14	5	2	4	3	14	10	4	23
Sutherland Sharks	14	6	0	4	4	17	17	0	22
Rockdale Suns	13	5	3	0	5	15	15	0	21
Bonnyrigg Eagles	14	5	2	0	7	20	18	2	19
Macarthur Rams	14	5	1	2	6	11	17	6	19
St George Saints	13	3	4	1	5	17	20	-3	18
Mt Druitt Town	14	5	1	1	7	20	24	-4	16
Illawarra Lions	14	4	2	1	7	20	28	-8	17
Stanmore Hawks	14	2	2	2	8	9	22	-13	12
Adamstown R'bud	13	2	1	1	9	11	18	-7	9
**Bankstown City Lions	to be deducted 4 points at the end of the season.								
UNDER 21									
Blacktown City	13	10	2	1	0	31	8	23	35
Bonnyrigg Eagles	13	8	4	0	1	43	11	32	32
Leichhardt Tigers	14	9	2	0	3	32	19	13	31
Bankstown City	12	7	2	0	3	27	17	10	25
Adamstown R'bud	12	6	2	1	3	16	11	5	23
Canterbury M'vill	14	5	4	0	5	22	17	-5	23
Warringah Dolphin	14	6	2	0	6	27	21	6	22
Macarthur Rams	14	3	5	0	6	26	31	-5	19
Mt Druitt Town	14	4	3	1	6	15	24	-9	19
Rockdale Suns	13	5	1	1	6	24	25	-1	18
Sutherland Sharks	14	6	0	0	8	19	28	-8	18
Stanmore Hawks	14	4	2	0	8	11	28	-17	16
Illawarra Lions	14	3	2	0	9	20	45	-25	13
St George Saints	13	0	1	0	12	8	26	-18	2
UNDER 18									
Blacktown City	13	11	0	0	2	56	8	48	33
St George Saints	13	7	4	0	1	43	11	32	32
Mt Druitt Town	13	8	0	1	4	27	12	15	25
Canterbury M'vill	13	6	3	1	3	26	20	6	25
Sutherland Sharks	14	7	1	1	5	25	18	7	24
Bankstown City	12	6	2	1	3	27	18	9	23
Adamstown R'bud	12	6	2	0	4	24	17	7	22
Bonnyrigg Eagles	13	3	6	0	4	26	25	1	21
Macarthur Rams	14	5	3	0	6	20	26	-6	21
Rockdale Suns	12	6	1	0	5	25	22	3	20
Leichhardt Tigers	14	4	2	0	8	18	38	-20	16
Warringah	12	3	2	0	7	12	23	-11	13
Stanmore Hawks	14	1	4	0	9	17	38	-21	11
Illawarra Lions	13	0	2	0	11	11	55	-44	4
ROUND 12									
FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE									
Fairfield Bulls	0	Central Coast	3						
Belmore Hercules	2	West Warragah	0						
Minotaurs	1	Mt Pritchard	0						
Auburn United	3	Ryde City	1						
Liverpool City	0	Hills United	4						
Sydney Cosmos	1	Dulwich Hill	3						
UNDER 21									
Fairfield Bulls	1	Central Coast	3						
Belmore Hercules	5	West Warragah	4						
Minotaurs	3	Mt Pritchard	1						
Auburn United	1	Ryde City	3						
Liverpool City	0	Hills United	14						
Sydney Cosmos	2	Dulwich Hill	2						
FEDERATION DIVISION ONE FIRST GRADE									
Central Coast	12	10	0	0	2	45	9	36	30
Auburn United	12	8	2	0	2	33	18	15	28
Ryde City Gunners	12	8	2	0	2	30	17	13	28
Fairfield Bulls	12	8	0	1	3	31	15	16	25
Belmore Hercules	10	5	2	0	3	23	21	2	19
Dulwich Hill	12	3	4	1	4	22	23	-1	18
Minotaurs	10	4	2	0	4	11	14	-3	16
Hills United	10	3	2	0	5	13	12	1	13
Mt Pritchard	12	3	2	0	7	18	25	-7	13
West Warragah	12	3	2	0	7	16	32	-16	13
Sydney Cosmos	11	2	2	0	7	9	17	-8	10
Liverpool City	11	0	0	0	11	9	57	-48	0
ROUND 12									
FEDERATION DIVISION TWO FIRST GRADE									
Sydney District	6	St John's Park	1						

Big Ollie eyes four in a row

Ollerton has the Bulleen Lions roaring again

BY GREG BLAKE

It looked like the end of a glorious era for Victorian Premier League giants Bulleen as the Lion machine sputtered and almost stalled nearly three months into the 1995 campaign.

Under Andy Bozikas Bulleen had been THE Victorian club of the 1990's, with consecutive top three finishes from 1991 to 1994, a championship in 1993 and boasting some lofty NSL aspirations.

This year, under new player-coach Jeff Olver, the Lions had sagged to second-last on the ladder by mid-April, with just a single win in the opening nine rounds.

The boom side of the era looked flat and uninspired for the first time in five years, and finally Olver conceded to the pressures of his dual roles by electing to relinquish his coaching post whilst staying on as senior keeper.

Six weeks later and the top teams of 1995 are starting to have an anxious look over their shoulders.

With a fourth win in five undefeated games at North Geelong on May 20 the Lions crept into the top five for the first time this season.

At the helm, record-breaking and record-chasing former Socceroo 1974 World Cup Finals legend Peter Ollerton.

The big fellow appears to have turned lethargic Bulleen around in a trice, adding another Premier League success to his coaching CV.

If Bulleen returns to the winner's circle on grand final day this year Ollerton will beat his own record of consecutive Premier League titles.

He is shooting for his fourth from as many attempts, having coached unfashionable Croydon City to back-to-back wins in 1985 and 1986 in his only two years at the club, before making his remarkable Premier League return last season and getting

PETER OLLERTON'S CAREER COACHING RECORD AT NSL AND PREMIER LEAGUE LEVEL (TO 20/5/95)

LEAGUE	CLUB	YEARS	P	W	D	L	SUCCESS %
NSL	Preston	1981 to 84 *	88	38	23	27	56.25
Premier	Croydon City	1985 to 86	52	33	12	7	75.00
NSL	Melb. Knights	1987 *@	19	9	5	5	60.53
— Suspended from senior coaching from 1988 to 1993 —							
Premier	Preston	1994 to 95 #	31	17	9	5	69.35
Premier	Bulleen	1995 +	5	4	1	0	90.00
Total Premier Record			88	54	22	12	73.86
Total NSL Record			107	47	28	32	57.01
TOTAL COACHING RECORD			195	101	50	44	64.62

* Took over from Brian Edgley in June 1981 and was replaced by Frank McAleer in July 1984.

@ Took over from Terry Hennessey five games into the season.

Resigned five games into the 1995 season.

+ Replaced Jeff Olver after nine games of the season.

Preston over the line at first attempt.

He served his ties with last year's champs just weeks into the new season after a well-documented spat with the new regime at Connor Reserve before being picked up by the then ailing Veneto Club side four weeks later.

Both coach and new club have relished the change.

"Basically Peter Ollerton laid the law down to the players," explained club president Pat Saladino.

"Peter has taken over the same squad (as Olver) but he's made them more aware of their responsibilities to the club."

"He's been more authoritative and straight down the line, which needed to happen."

"He told them that he had to prove that they were good enough all over again and if you don't perform, you're out."

"I think the thing is that most of the players currently at the club have all been through the good periods and they've never had to face a real crisis."

"Thankfully, the players have responded."

Ollerton plays an even



Peter Ollerton: Is he set to make it four Victorian titles from four attempts?

"I don't want to dwell on it though, and this move was really good for me," he said.

"This club is very professional in its outlook and they leave the coaching up to me."

Saladino made it clear that Olver also deserved plenty of praise for making a tough personal decision in his rookie coaching career.

"That bad run made the coaching and playing roles just too difficult to combine in the end," he explained.

"Jeff has been a true professional throughout and a great clubman."

"He tried his best, but in the end he said he just wanted to play."

"Jeff was great," added

Ollerton.

"He was one of the first guys I spoke to before my first training session and he told me that the coaching was affecting his game."

"If he made a mistake it went through the confidence of the whole side and he said he wasn't getting the best from the players."

"He was courageous to step down but play on."

As for Ollerton, one wonders just how many more successes the clearly talented coach might have boasted by now, had it not been for that well-publicised suspension which cost him five years of senior coaching (see stats chart) and might have cost him even more had it not been for a successful appeal.

In 1988 'Ollie', then 37, was battling away in the lower leagues for Doveton against Sandringham when an on-field fracas ended with Ollerton sent off and after suspended for punching referee Jim Fearn.

The much-publicised alteration was the volcano explosion of a man who was facing bitter personal and business problems.

In a revealing exclusive interview with ABSW last year

the former great even admitted to contemplating suicide such was the pressure at the time.

"I thought I'd lost everything," he reflected.

"There were so many things going on in my life at the time."

"To be honest, I probably shouldn't have been on the park (that day)."

"It was a silly thing to do and I still regret it."

Four years ago he was an angry, snarling and very bitter man whose career was all but washed up.

"For sure (I was bitter) during the suspension," he says.

"In many ways I felt it was because of who I was that it was blown up and in the headlines."

"Obviously at first something like that really cuts you up."

"The positive side is that once you've accepted what has happened you can get on with your life and start fresh," he explained.

"The whole thing has made me a lot wiser and a much better coach."

"I've started to make a lot of friends in the game again as well."

Ollerton's move to Bulleen has coincided nicely with a number a personal coaching milestones set for 1995.

— Ollerton recorded his 100th career coaching win on May 14, when his Bulleen team downed Werribee 2-1 at the Veneto Club.

— Bulleen's round 19 clash away to Green Gully on July 2 will be Ollerton's 200th game as an NSL or Premier League coach.

— Ollerton will coach his 100th Premier League game on the final day of the home and away season when the Lions play

their return game against Werribee at Galvin Park, elevating the former Socceroo to the rarified ranks of the century club at both levels.

The big fellow will most likely play down his coaching career landmarks, with his quest for a history-making fourth Premier League title in as many attempts his key target.

As a coach, Ollerton has stood the test of time and with a Bulleen side as good as any in the league at his disposal the Lions may be the team to watch come the finals.

Ollerton is not quite prepared to think that far ahead just yet.

"The quality of the squad has always been there, although I still might pick up one or two players before the transfer season ends," he revealed.

"At this stage, if we get to a position just to challenge for the title that would be great."

"The future of the club this year is simply to finish as high up as possible."

NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES

STATE ONE

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

Clarinda	THOMASTOWN Devils
WESTERN Suburbs	LALOR United
Oakleigh	CAULFIELD City
Bentleigh GREEN	KNOX CITY
Croydon City	NORTHCOTE City
Frankston PINES	RICHMOND
Br'meadows City	WESTGATE

STATE TWO

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

Clifton Hill*	SPR. WHITE Eagles
MOOROOLBARK	ALTONA EAST
EAST RICHMOND	NUNAWADING City
ESS. BRUN. ROYALS	WAVERLEY City
Chelsea	MOORABBIN City
Altona City	REGENT BULLA
Bell Park	RINGWOOD City

STATE THREE

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

MELBOURNE City	WESTVALE
PASCOE VALE	FITZROY City
ELI DIA VALLEY	FRANKSTON
Sth Caulfield	Sth DANEDONG
Sth Werribee	SEAFORD Utd
Keilor Eagles	BANYULE
Sunbury Utd	SANDRINGHAM City

STATE FOUR

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

Williamstown	GEELONG
SUNSHINE HEIGHTS	LANGWARRIN
BRIGHTON	Nth Coburg Utd
CRANBOURNE	Sth SPRINGVALE
Corio	Sth WANTIRNA
DOVETON	SUTTONNINGTON City
YARRAVILLE	MONBULK

PROVISIONAL ONE

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

Old Scotch	GEEL. RANGERS
Spring. Condors	GLENROY
BRANDON PARK	MELTON
BALLARAT	MITCHAM Utd
KNOX PARK	LALOR
DANEDONG	MORELAND City
Nth Sunshine	Heidelberg City

PROVISIONAL TWO

SATURDAY, 3RD JUNE ROUND 11

Nth Glenroy	MORNINGTON

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VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

DONCASTER 0 ALTONA 1

BY JOHN RIGAS

Cellar dweller Doncaster Rovers were unlucky not to come away with at least a draw against the Altona Magic in dripping conditions at Anderson Reserve on Saturday.

As the rain tumbled so did Doncaster, and in the 30th minute a free-kick which was taken by the league's leading marksman Vasko Trpccevski increased his goal tally when his low drive took a deflection off the defensive wall that wrong-footed goalkeeper Glenn Clarke.

Magic goalkeeper Darren McGrath pulled off some remarkable saves to deny the Rovers some credibility.

The most outstanding save was made off striker Archie McGeachey in the 80th minute, a McGeachey shot on the turn forced McGrath into a full-stretched save which was tapped over the crossbar.

Altona coach Ian Dobson said after the game, "Doncaster had more possession but we had more chances, there is still a 30 per cent improvement to come out of my team."

ROVERS: Clarke, Wallace, Hennessey, Peel, McBride, Whitton, Greenwood, Healey, McGeachey, MacNicol, Ristevski (O'Donnell). MAGIC: McGrath, Micevski, Tasevski, Harris, Runje, Markovski, Velkovski, Emsovski, Atanasovski (Cvetkovski), Georgopoulos, Trpccevski (Georgievski) REFEREE: Jim Markovski VOTES: 3 - McBride (DR); 2 - McGrath (AM); 1 - Tasevski (AM).

SUNSHINE 0 BULLEEN 0

BY DWYGH TUFFNELL

Sunshine Georgies slipped to fourth place on the ladder after their goalless draw at home to the Bulleen Lions on Sunday. But the Georgies will be

disappointed that they didn't take all three points in a game they dominated from start to finish.

Bulleen could manage just one genuine attempt on Tony Lyras' goal, with Dale White having his shot palmed onto an upright by Lyras in the 37th minute.

On the other hand Sunshine created four scoring chances in the first half. Poor finishing and good goalkeeping from Jeff Olver kept the Lions in the contest.

The second half was no different with the Bulleen defence having to clear the ball off the line on two occasions.

Robert Ferla was denied twice by desperate clearances from Frank Valentic and Tom Sonsini.

GEORGIES: Lyras, Melrose, Kanesoulis, Cassar (Lewis), Ferla, Daglars, Kiratzoglou, Dougherty, Pappas (Aretis), Stenson, Sherifovski B. LIONS: Olver, Valentic, Krajacic, Tsakos, Wade, Sonsini, White, Giaccherini, Patterson (Di Iorio), Grbac, Lutgens.

REFEREE: Andrew Stacey VOTES: 3 - Stenson (SG); 2 - Kiratzoglou (SG); 1 - Lutgens (BL)

WERRIEBEE 0 NTH GEELONG 4

BY NINO NAPOLI

The North Geelong Warriors defeated the Werribee Bees 4-0 in a game that both sides needed to win desperately.

Mijo Trpkovic was the hero for the Warriors grabbing a hat-trick and playing a major part in its teams emphatic victory.

Trpkovic got his first in the 44th minute pouncing on a loose ball from a corner which should have been controlled by Bees Keeper Con Giatas.

Werribee were paying dearly for missed chances and went further behind in the 54th minute when Trpkovic shot under the body of Giatas to give the visitors a handy 2-0 lead.

Premier League LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
PORT MELBOURNE	15	12	3	0	34	9	39
ALTONA MAGIC	15	9	2	4	24	18	29
ALBION REDSOX	15	7	3	5	16	17	24
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	14	6	4	4	20	15	22
BULLEEN LIONS	15	5	6	4	17	15	21
FAWKNER BLUES	15	6	3	6	13	17	21
ST ALBANS SAINTS	15	5	4	6	21	15	19
NTH GEELONG WARRIOR	14	5	3	6	19	15	18
PRESTON LIONS	15	4	6	5	18	18	18
GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS	15	4	5	6	14	18	17
SPRINGVALE CITY VALES	14	4	4	6	17	27	16
WERRIEBEE BEES	14	3	5	6	17	24	14
BOX HILL INTER	15	3	3	9	12	20	12
DONCASTER ROVERS	15	2	5	8	10	22	11

TOP SCORERS

12 V. Trpccevski (Altona M)	6 D. Gnjidic (Fawkner)
8 G. Savigos (Port Melb)	T. Calle (Springvale)
7 J. Suric (Werribee)	S. Bevincovski (Preston)
D. Genovesi (G. Gully)	D. White (Bulleen)
N. Tsaltas (Port Melb)	T. Pondeljak (St. Albans)

Five minutes later Bozidar Kules provided a cross for George Dimovski who beat Giatas from the edge of the box.

To make things tougher for the Bees Ian Calderwood received the red card for a foul on substitute Josip Skoko.

Trpkovic wrapped up his hat-trick in the 88th minute when he turned brilliantly and beat Giatas from 25 yards with a magnificent shot.

BEES: Giatas, Napoli, Gilmore, Calderwood (sent off), Carraro, Muscat, Androulidakis, Stojcevski, Donnelly, Papamihail (Cavarras), Suric. WARRIORS: Vunderl, Bot, O'Sullivan, medved, Cosic (J. Skoko), McAuliffe, Kules, Dimovski, Trpkovic, Pandzic, Deak.

REFEREE: Cain Naumcevski VOTES: 3 - Trpkovic (NG); 2 - Dimovski (NG); 1 - Napoli (WB).

SPRINGVALE C. 0 PORT MELB. 6

BY NICK GIANNAKOPOULOS

Port Melbourne Sharks issued a stern warning to the rest of the league that they are the team to beat with a 6-0 trouncing over a helpless Springvale City Vales at Ross Reserve.

The avalanche of goals began in the 11th minute when Nick Tsaltas dribbled the ball through the Vales defence to slot the ball home.

Moments later Tsaltas played provider crossing the ball for Terry Rizopoulos to

head the ball home.

Midway through the first half the Sharks inflicted another body blow with a Rizopoulos long-range shot finding the net.

In the 38th minute Port scored their fourth goal with great work from Jimmy Pasakos cutting the ball back to George Savigos who found the net.

After the interval the Sharks were on the attack again with the lethal Tsaltas and Nick Papadopoulos strike force earned the Sharks their fifth goal with Papadopoulos Slammering the ball in from outside the area.

In the 86th minute, Rizopoulos completed the rout with well deserved hat-trick with a South American Style flick.

VALES: Jones, Byrne (Lettieri) Nolan, Selimidis, Craig, Geri, Calle, Roberts, Nilo, Mihajlovic, Lennon.

SHARKS: Anastasiadis, Pasakos, Dimitrelos, Kyriakopoulos, Fak, Savigos (Kotzagianidis), Palamaras, Tsaltas (Tsirakis), PLapadopoulos, Ruzmir, Rizopoulos.

REFEREE: Vince Celestino VOTES: 3 - Rizopoulos (PM); 2 - Savigos (PM); 1 - Ruzmir (PM).

ST ALBANS 2 ALBION 3

BY SONIA VIDUKA

Supporters were treated to a fast-paced, action game, with an abundance of goals

Michael Vesnauer gave the Redsox the their third goal with a shot from 30 yards in the 82nd minute.

Kelic scored again a minute later from a cross from Josip Markovac.

SAINTS: Keogh (sent off), Juric, Milanovic, Markovac, M. Colina, P. Babic (Movric) Pondeljak, Kirishian (Acevski), I. Colina (sent off), Gagula, Kelic.

REDSOX: Brian, Gurpinar, Vesnauer, Osann, Lucchesi, Sevin, Collins, Fehmi (Simsek), Popovski, Kuyucuogullari (Ciantar), Wilson.

REFEREE: John Fraser VOTES: 3 - Sevin (AR); 2 - Juric (STA); 1 - Gurpinar (AR).

GREEN GULLY 1 BOX HILL INTER 0

BY LUKE BUTTIGIEG

The Green Gully Cavaliers ended their run of losses and finally gave their home crowd something to cheer about with a hard fought 1-0 win over Box Hill Inter.

The first half was dominated by Green Gully, but their only real chance was a searing Tony Nescesi strike that was kept out by the cross bar.

The crowd came alive in the 57th minute thanks to good passing and individual finishing. Daniel Genovesi brilliantly beat two foes and his shot went in off the right post.

Box Hill lifted their work rate after the goal, but with no real scoring opportunities they were unable to capitalise on midfield superiority in the final 30 minutes.

The Cavaliers, finally triumphed because their attacking play, through Genovesi and Joe Tricarico was more polished, but a bigger loss was avoided by Inter due to the great defensive work of Frank Pansino.

CAVALIERS: Sant, Spiteri, Crodden, Brown, Campelj, Chetcuti, Markovski, Davis (Ireland), Tricarico, Nescesi, Genovesi (Grillo).

INTER: Baker, Pansino, Dal Ben, D. Tartaglia, Mazzini, Castro (Inglese), Filipovic, Guglielmi, A. Roodhouse, Guscic, Frezzini (I. Roodhouse).

REFEREE: Wayne Dade VOTES: 3 - Chioldi (PL); 2 - Janssen (FB); 1 - Rajković (PL).

PRESTON 0 FAWKNER 1

BY NICK TZAFERIS

Danny Gnjidic afflicted Preston Lions first defeat in six games by emphatically scoring the lone goal of a door affair at Connor Reserve.

Gnjidic impeccably rose through a ruck of players to overhead past Tommy Rajković on 77 minutes, a goal Gnjidic maintains was crucial, but not the best of his career.

"It was nice, but I've scored sweeter ones than that," Gnjidic said.

"I wasn't aware it went in, everyone jumped on me before I could see it go in."

Both sides had opportunities to make a greater impact on the scoreboard but were either thwarted by brave goalkeeping or sub-standard finishing.

The Blues came close early when Rino Minichiello struck the cross bar whilst Preston's Gerry McAleer, Sash Bevincovski and Nick Cuculevski all failed to capitalise on potential goals.

Meanwhile, with Phil Traianedes likely to miss the rest of the season through injury, Preston is negotiating with talented North Geelong keeper, Bobby Simic on loan.

LIONS: Rajković, Spasevski, Chioldi, Cubitt, Chalmers, Pender, Trajceski, Bevincovski, McAleer, Cuculevski (Sterjovski), Lane.

BLUES: Janssen, Crivari, Santalucia, Kuzman, Schipano, Basias, Bordignon, Thodis (Banini), Minichiello, Retre, Gnjidic.

REFEREE: Wayne Dade VOTES: 3 - Chioldi (PL); 2 - Janssen (FB); 1 - Rajković (PL).

THIS WEEKS VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE GAMES

FRIDAY

Box Hill Inter v Doncaster Rovers

SATURDAY

Fawkner Blues v St Albans Saints

SUNDAY

North Geelong Warriors v Sunshine Georgies
Werribee City Bees v Altona Magic

Monday

Bulleen Lions v Springvale City Vales

Port Melb. v Preston L.
Albion Redsox v Green Gully Cavaliers

PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 15 RESULTS

Doncaster Rovers 0 Altona Magic 1 (Trpkovic)
Green Gully Cavaliers 1 (Genovesi) Box Hill Inter 0
St Albans Saints 2 (Kelic 2) Albion Redsox 3 (Sevin, Collins, Vesnauer)
Preston Lions 0 Fawkner Blues 1 (Gnjidic)
Springvale City Vales 0 Port Melbourne Sharks 6 (Rizopoulos 3, Papadopoulos, Tsaltas, Savigos)
Sunshine Georgies 0 Bulleen Lions 0
Werribee Bees 0 North Geelong Warriors 4 (M. Trpkovic 3, Dimovski)



Vic Health Foundation

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VICTORIAN LADIES DODGERS

**PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Fawkner Blues	14	9	2	3	35	19	29
Gr. Gully Cavil.	13	9	2	2	28	13	29
St Alb. Saints	14	8	3	3	29	19	27
Altona Magic	14	8	2	4	26	19	26
Preston Lions	14	8	0	6	35	20	24
Bulleen Lions	13	7	2	4	26	20	23
Pt Melb. Sharks	13	7	1	5	22	20	22
Werribee Bees	13	5	4	4	18	13	19
Sun. Georgies	13	5	3	5	23	19	18
Spr. City Vales	13	4	3	6	19	22	15
Don'ter Rovers	13	3	5	7	23	32	14
Box Hill Inter	14	4	1	9	20	32	13
Nt Geel. Warrior	13	1	2	10	10	36	5
Albion Redsox	14	1	2	11	18	48	5

STATE ONE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lalor United	10	7	2	1	17	10	23
Bent. Greens	10	6	3	1	23	12	21
Thomas. Devils	10	6	3	1	22	15	21
Clarinda	10	5	4	1	21	12	19
Richmond	10	5	1	4	20	10	16
West Suburbs	10	4	3	3	12	11	12
Westgate	10	3	3	4	15	17	12
Northcote City	10	4	2	4	15	15	11
Croydon City	10	4	2	4	16	17	11
Caulfield City	10	2	4	4	13	11	10
Oakleigh	10	3	0	7	12	21	9
Frank. Pines	10	2	2	6	14	16	8
Broadmeadows	10	1	3	6	12	20	6
Knox City	10	1	2	7	10	23	5

STATE ONE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond	9	7	0	2	32	15	21
Bent. Greens	9	6	2	1	21	11	20
Th'town Devils	9	6	1	2	20	13	19
Knox City	9	5	0	4	24	15	15
Oakleigh	9	4	3	2	19	13	15
Lalor Utd	9	4	1	4	14	12	13
Northcote City	10	5	1	4	20	22	13
Frank. Pines	9	3	3	3	18	17	12
Broadmeadows	8	4	0	4	11	20	12
Clarinda	9	3	2	4	19	15	11
Caulfield City	8	2	3	3	13	11	9
Westgate	9	2	0	7	23	35	6
West. Suburbs	9	2	2	5	16	24	5
Croydon City	9	1	0	8	8	33	0

STATE TWO FIRSTS (May 22)

This week's table not available

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Noorabbin City	9	7	2	0	20	4	23
Waverley City	9	6	2	1	24	6	20
Ess. Brun. Royals	9	7	2	0	30	13	20
Sp. White Eagles	9	5	3	1	16	9	18
East Richmond	9	4	3	2	10	12	15
Altona East	9	4	2	3	17	9	14
Chelsea	9	4	1	4	15	17	13
Regent Bulla	9	2	4	3	9	13	10
Bell Park	9	3	1	5	10	19	10
Altona City	9	2	0	4	9	14	9
Ringwood City	9	2	1	6	11	16	7
Mooroolbark	9	0	5	4	7	19	5
Nunawading City	9	6	5	4	5	17	5
Clifton Hill	9	6	0	9	2	17	0

STATE TWO RESERVES (May 22)

This week's table not available

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moorabbin City	9	8	1	0	34	8	25
Altona City	9	7	0	2	30	15	21
Ess. Brun. Royals	9	6	2	1	24	8	17
Regent Bulla	9	5	2	2	24	12	17
Sp. White Eagles	9	5	1	3	18	10	16
Waverley City	9	5	0	4	24	14	15
Clifton Hill	9	3	1	5	12	14	10

STATE THREE FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Altona East	9	3	1	5	10	22	10
Bell Park	9	3	1	5	8	22	10
Mooroolbark	9	3	0	6	17	25	9
East Richmond	9	2	3	4	15	25	9
Nunawading City	9	3	0	6	10	23	9
Ringwood City	9	2	0	7	13	23	6
Chelsea	9	1	2	6	9	27	5

STATE THREE RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Westvale	10	8	1	1	31	9	25
Sth Dandenong	10	7	2	1	29	10	23
Sth Werribee	10	6	3	1	20	12	21
Melb. City	10	6	1	3	21	15	19
Elt Dia Valley	10	4	4	2	13	11	16
Sth Caulfield	10	5	1	4	11	13	16
Keilor Eagles	10	3	6	1	9	5	15
Frankston	10	4	1	5	19	20	13
Fitzroy City	10	4	1	5	9	15	13
Seaford Utd	10	3	1	6	14	28	10
Pascoe Vale	10	2	2	6	14	17	8
Banyule	10	2	1	7	15	27	7
Sunbury Utd	10	1	3	6	7	18	6
Sandringham	10	0	3	7	6	18	0

STATE FOUR FIRSTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT

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QUEENSLAND

XXXX Soccer League
May 28
Round 10

Coaststars	2	Def East Suburbs	0
Pine Rivers	2	Def Gr. Thistle	1
Rochedale Rovers	7	Def Willowburn	0
Brisbane City	1	Drew Taringa	1
Brisbane Lions	2	Def Wynnum	0

To be played May 30

North Star v North Brisbane

DIVISION XXXX LEAGUE

BRISBANE CITY	11	9	1	1	31	11	28
ROCHEDALE ROVERS	11	8	2	1	27	8	26
NORTH STAR	10	7	2	1	22	16	23
TARINGA ROVERS	11	7	1	3	18	11	22
BRISBANE LIONS	11	4	6	1	19	10	18
WYNNUM DISTRICT	11	6	0	5	18	17	18
COALSTARS	11	4	2	5	16	15	14
GRANGE THISTLE	11	3	1	7	18	24	10
PINE RIVERS UNITED	11	1	5	5	9	17	8
EASTERN SUBURBS	11	2	1	8	9	28	7
WILLOWBURN	11	1	2	8	12	33	5
NORTH BRISBANE	10	0	3	7	9	18	3

DIVISION 2

BEENLEIGH	11	9	1	1	39	16	28
ROCKLEA UNITED	11	7	1	3	20	10	22
NERANG	11	7	1	3	21	13	22
ACACIA RIDGE	11	6	2	3	22	15	20
LOGAN CITY KINGS	11	6	1	4	24	21	19
IPSWICH ST HELENS U.	11	5	2	4	23	21	17
OLYMPIC UNITED	11	5	2	4	12	15	17
ST ALBANS	11	4	0	7	18	21	12
MOUNT GRAVATT	11	3	1	7	15	22	10
SOUTHS UNITED	11	3	1	7	15	24	10
INALA CITY UNITED	11	3	1	7	16	29	10
UNIVERSITY OF QLD	11	1	1	9	12	30	4

NORTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE FIRST GRADE RESULTS

MAY 28

Lake Macquarie	5	Maitland Magpies	0
Wallsend Red Devils	1	Broadmeadow Magic	2
Hamilton Warriors	2	Edgeworth Eagles	2
Weston Workers Bears	5	Cessnock Hornets	0
West Wall. Bluebells	0	Highfields	3

RESERVE GRADE RESULTS

Lake Macquarie	0	Maitland Magpies	1
Wallsend Red Devils	5	Broadmeadow Magic	1
Hamilton Warriors	1	Edgeworth Eagles	2
Weston Workers Bears	1	Cessnock Hornets	2
West Wallsend Bluebells	1	Highfields	2

UNDER 18'S RESULTS

Lake Macquarie	1	Maitland Magpies	1
Wallsend Red Devils	1	Broadmeadow Magic	1
Hamilton Warriors	2	Edgeworth Eagles	0
Weston Workers Bears	0	Cessnock Hornets	0
West Wall. Bluebells	3	Highfields	4

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	APT
Raiders	10	5	3	2	17	10	18
White City Warriors	10	5	2	3	19	11	17
Salisbury United	10	5	2	3	12	10	17
Adelaide Blue Eagles	10	4	2	4	21	19	14
Port Adelaide Lion	10	3	5	2	13	15	14
Croydon	10	3	4	3	17	16	13
Campbelltown City	10	2	2	6	13	20	8
Modbury	10	1	4	5	15	26	7

ROUND TEN SCORES

Modbury	2	Campbelltown City	2
Adelaide Blue	0	White City Warr	2
Raiders	3	Salisbury United	0
Port Adelaide	1	Croydon	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION

Para Hills Knights	8	7	0	1	14	5	21
West Adelaide	9	5	2	2	14	9	17
Elizabeth City	9	4	4	1	14	10	16
West Torrens	8	4	3	1	16	8	15
Adelaide City	9	4	2	3	17	14	14
Plympton	9	3	2	4	13	12	11
Olympians	9	3	2	4	14	14	11
Cumberland Utd	9	2	4	3	12	14	10
Enfield City	9	2	3	4	13	18	9
Noarlunga United	10	2	1	7	16	26	7
Seaford	9	0	3	6	7	20	3

ROUND TEN SCORERS

Seaford	1	Plympton	1
West Torrens	2	Olympians	2
West Adelaide	2	Adelaide City	2
Para Hills Knights	3	Cumberland Utd	0
Enfield City	2	Noarlunga United	4
Elizabeth City	0	bye	0

Werribee City Bees

YOUTH SQUAD 1994/95



The curtain raiser to the Victoria v West Ham game on Sunday May 21st at Olympic Park was the Grand Final of the Victorian Youth Summer League.

Werribee City were the winners of the North West Division and Frankston Pines winners of the South East Division Division.

Both Divisions closely contested Werribee finishing on 40 points winning 12 games, drawing 4 and losing 2 for the season.

Frankston finishing top on 43 points winning 14, drawing 1 and losing 4 games for the season.

Before the game on Sunday morning at Galvin Park was a "Breakfast Grand Final" where a number of awards were given to players for the year long performances. The awards were as follows: (Werribee)

Top Goal Scorer: 17 Goals Chris Papamihail
Best & Fairest: Giuseppe Santalucia
Coach's Award: Kristian Zach

To note that four of those youth players were given Senior contracts and promoted into the Werribee Squad as future Senior Players these were: Kristian Zach, Charlie Muscat, Joey Vella, Ryan Gilmour.

BACK ROW: Pat Barrera (Coach) Dobra Milenkovski, Andrew Samartino, Giuseppe Santalucia, Chris Papamihail, Matthew Barbetta, Ryan Gilmour, Kristian Zach, Marcus Jablonski, John Cannizzaro (Assist. Coach) Toky Zach (Manager)

FRONT ROW: Shaun Agius, Shaun Gatt, Joey Vella, Daniel Glasic, Enzo Messina (Captain) Charlie Muscat, Drage Milenkovski, Julian Zach.

Para Hills Knights



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ROUND SEVEN FIRST DIVISION

Bayswater City 1 Perth 1

Inglewood Falcons 2 Stirling Panthers 1

Sw

Men in the hot seats for Euro '96

Are you satisfied with the progress so far?

TERRY VENABLES (England manager): We have had seven games, discounting the game in Dublin, and I have been particularly pleased with the way things have gone. Against Uruguay we did not play very well. But I think we were just short of winning the game.

Obviously if we don't score goals it is really frustrating for everybody because we want to entertain. I always believe that, if you have time, then take advantage of it. I think we have always got to get things right at the back. It is no good throwing caution to the wind against the best teams in Europe and the world, otherwise you are going to get punished. You have to be a bit patient. I think our defensive record is sound — not that I am saying that is what it is all about — but I am saying we must really start with not giving goals away.

We know we have got younger players waiting to come in and it's most important that there is a sort of hand-over period. I feel if you put a lot of young players in, and ask them to sort out themselves, it's very difficult for them.

The more experienced players are very important in bringing younger guys along. When the younger players, like Le Saux and Anderton, originally came in, they had experienced players to help.

So that it made it more comfortable for them and they were successful. The next stage is to do that again. There is no doubt about it — we have young players with a lot of potential and making them feel good when they come in is what I am trying to achieve. We will only know whether this is being successful when we enter into the tournament in a year's time.

I can't say we are successful at the moment. All I am saying is I am not unhappy with our progress.

Is the media pressure

intensifying?

DON HOWE (England's technical co-ordinator): Yes, it has multiplied compared with what it was like in 1982 in Spain, 1986 in Mexico and in 1990 in Italy. At our first training session when Terry had just taken over I have never seen so many photographers. I mean it was like a crowd around the pitch.

It was like an amateur football match when you stand around the touchlines. I was amazed — and they have these wonderful telescopic lenses so you are frightened to move. You think I had better not scratch my head because there will be a photograph tomorrow saying he is worried about something.

"The most criticised coaches in the World Cup were Arrigo Sacchi and Carlos Parreira."

I suppose really that is in the interest of the game. The world wants to read all about the game. On the technical side, major international football is about players coming from midfield, coming from the back. I think that everybody knows that there has been a change in tactics. A lot of teams are playing one player up and then everybody is just coming flooding from midfield, and to get that right you really have to work at it with your players. It is not an easy thing, because sometimes that front player does get isolated. And if you

England's Terry Venables and Don Howe talk about the state of the game.



Andy Cole: The star striker has been groomed patiently into the England strip.

are not getting it right, it looks as though it is defensive. If you look at Uruguay the other week, they had that great player Fonseca up there by himself.

You tended to think if they could have got more players around Fonseca, then

they would have given us more problems than what they did, but it is the new fashion of tactics. When it is working and everybody is coming from midfield, it is wonderful — but when it is not working it looks defensive and that's when the criticism comes.

Terry Venables: If you look at the World Cup finals recently, the most criticised coaches in the whole of the tournament were Arrigo Sacchi and Carlos Alberto.

They took this terrific criticism from their own people. But they knew what they were doing. I spoke at length to Carlos. He knew Brazil had this great cavalier approach but for 20 odd years they were getting knocked out by the odd goal. So he went for a disciplined formation with talented players. Italy, too. Yet the two coaches were booed at the World Cup Final when they came out on the field! Well, you say if you cannot get any appreciation when you are winning, is it worth it? And we all say well it's not worth it but I'm afraid it's that drug — we cannot live with the game and we cannot live without it.

You just can't win. So the steady approach is the one I am trying. If you change a lot and make experiments they say we haven't got a consistent side, and, if you are consistent, well, they complain because they want new names to fill the criticism comes.

newspapers. So we have to try to be consistent and then bite the bullet when we are criticised for it.

English football is still being criticised for a lack of technical sophistication, isn't it?

Terry Venables: We are trying to get it right tactically but it takes a bit of time. I think we are improving.

Does the fashion for buying foreign players mean England is not producing enough young skilled players of its own?

Terry Venables: I think we have a lot of good young players. But in the Premier League, the clubs look to buy ready-made players because when they get worried about relegation, they think young players can't win for them in the short-term. It's part of Don's job now to look abroad to see whether we can improve our players at a young age.

Don Howe: It's right to say it has become the fashion to buy a player from abroad. You know what happens in football. If you're at Manchester City and Manchester United buy a player from abroad then you've got to go out and buy yourself a player from abroad because you've got to keep up with the Joneses.

Regarding the young player coming through — Ajax have a wonderful youth system, a wonderful youth development system and I've got to say this: it's way beyond what we can do. We've got a school problem — as you know our kids don't finish school until half past three, whereas in Holland they finish at lunchtime.

So Ajax can get the kids from the Amsterdam area for the afternoon. But we are bringing them through

gradually — players like Andy Cole and Nicky Barmby. We have not got our own style. You know English football. We do play 100 miles per hour.

Our crowds do respond to good football obviously, but mainly they want excitement. They want the ball in the box, they want players in the box fighting for the ball, I think that's why our game, our Premier League, is sold all over the world on television — because it's so exciting.

Is playing at home in 1996 in England as much of an advantage as it's made out?

Terry Venables: I think it's been 10 years since a team has won the World Cup or European Championship in their own country so the facts don't really bear it out. You have a large support but sometimes that can work against you.

I think Italy found it worked against them in 1990. They had some good games but the further they got the more nervous they got. Our big problem is getting friendly games. The FA has sent faxes and faxes and faxes everywhere to get games but other countries have got their own qualifying matches. I'm sure that next year we'll have them queuing round the corner to come and play us but this year it has been really difficult to get the type of games that put us to the test.

When it does come to Euro '96, which teams should people be aware of?

Terry Venables: Croatia, for one. Look through their players and they are mostly playing in Italy and they've got some outstanding ability. Italy themselves are always very talented. I think Germany have had a sticky spell for the first time for many years. I actually felt during the World Cup that they had slipped from the standard they normally show us. Spain I think are a good team. I think Clemente has done a good job. A lot of good teams. But we'll be ready for them.



Time to think tactics: Terry Venables (right) with Technical Co-ordinator Don Howe on the training pitch.



Rob Jones and Steve McManaman: The Liverpool duo are the architects of this small England wall.

EUROPEAN CUP

Ajax youngster clinches Cup

Substitute Patrick Kluivert side-footed the winner seven minutes from the end as Ajax beat AC Milan 1-0 last Thursday to win the European Champions Cup for the fourth time.

The 18-year-old forward, who entered the game only 16 minutes earlier, beat a despairing late challenge from Zvonimir Boban to net the goal, ending Milan's reign as champion and foiling the Italian club's bid to match Real Madrid's record of six titles.

Winger Marc Overmars pulled the ball in from the left and, with the Milan defence caught out of position, it was helped on by Edgar Davids and Frank Rijkaard to Kluivert, who pushed the ball past goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi from eight metres with Baresi sliding in too late.

Ajax, unbeaten in 33 matches in the Dutch league and twice 2-0 winner over Milan in the Champions Cup competition this season, last won the title in 1973, the last of three in a row.

With talent such as Kluivert, Nigerian forward Nwankwo Kanu and Overmars, it has the chance to achieve three more back to back, as long as it can stop big-spending clubs like Milan from buying them.

Victory sparked wild celebrations, not only by Ajax fans in the 50,000 crowd at the Ernst Happel stadium, but also by its players.

Kluivert reacted by taking off his shirt and putting it back on back-to-front before he was mobbed by his team-mates.

Milan wound up the losing side for the second time in three years, having tumbled 1-0 at Olympique Marseille two years ago in



Frank Rijkaard: Now has winners medals with both Ajax and Milan.

Munich. Last season it crushed Barcelona 4-0 in Athens.

The victory for Ajax meant a rare feat for Rijkaard, who won Champions Cup medals in 1989 and '90 playing for Milan and scored in each final.

The Milan fans groaned at the news that star forward Dejan Savicevic was not fit to play. The Montenegrin,

who terrorised the Barcelona defence in last season's final and netted twice in this season's semi-final victory over Paris Saint Germain, failed to recover from a thigh muscle injury.

Ajax looked more impressive in the first quarter of the game but the Italians created the best chance of the half.

Rijkaard lost possession to Daniele Massaro only 30 metres from his own goal and the ball was switched swiftly out to Roberto Donadoni on the right.

The midfielder, one of five Milan players on Italy's World Cup losing team in last season's World Cup final, scooped the ball over the top of the Ajax defence and Marco Simone fired a first-time left-footer goalwards.

The shot was so hard, Ajax goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar didn't save it. The ball simply hit him and rebounded away for a corner and Simone rolled onto his back and stared up in disbelief.

Before that there was little action for either goalkeeper.

Ajax defender Frank de Boer headed far too high from a good position from a corner by Finidi George in the 19th minute and the first on-target shot in the 26th was a weak one from Simone and it was straight at Van der Sar anyway.

The only other action to stir the fans came from Ajax

coach Louis van Gaal two minutes before half-time. Infuriated that his team did not get a free-kick, he ran to the sideline to shout his protest and even did an acrobatic impression of the Milan defender's foul.

Van Gaal was ordered back to the bench by a UEFA official but continued to argue and went back only when Romanian referee Ion Craciunescu intervened.

French midfielder Marcel Desailly, who performed well to keep the pressure off his defence, moved up to produce a diving header in

THE ROAD TO THE EUROPEAN CUP**AJAX AMSTERDAM CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Sept 14	AC Milan	H	2-0	R. De Boer, Litmanen
Sept 28	AEK Athens	A	2-1	Kluivert, Litmanen
Oct 19	Salzburg	A	0-0	
Nov 2	Salzburg	H	1-1	Litmanen
Nov 23	AC Milan	A	2-0	Litmanen, Baresi own goal (played in Trieste)
Dec 7	AEK Athens	H	2-0	Oulida 2

QUARTER-FINALS

March 1	Hajduk Split	A	0-0	
March 15	Hajduk Split	H	3-0	F. De Boer 2, Kanu

SEMI-FINALS

April 5	Bayern Munich	A	0-0	
April 19	Bayern Munich	H	5-2	Litmanen 2, R. De Boer, George, Overmars

FINAL

May 24	AC Milan	N	1-0	Kluivert
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SCORERS: Jari Litmanen 6, Ronald de Boer 2, Frank de Boer 2, Tarik Oulida 2, Patrick Kluivert 2, Nwankwo Kanu 1, Finidi George 1, Marc Overmars 1, Own goal 1.

the opening minute of the second half but it was too high.

Then Ajax sent on 18-year-old Nigerian forward Kanu as substitute for midfielder Clarence Seedorf in the 52nd minute and his first touch set up a half chance for Finidi George, who was tackled in the area by Paolo Maldini. Ajax called for a penalty but got a corner.

A neat pass from Demetrio Albertini set up a chance for Massaro but he fired wide from 15 metres. Four minutes later, in the 67th minute, Ajax sent on Kluivert and the Milan defence began to wilt.

Ajax kept moving the ball around and pulled Milan players out of position but they were unable to test Rossi in goal.

When Milan broke out, Simone forced a diving save from van der Sar with an 18-metre shot and also fired too high from the same range.

Kanu also drove just wide of the Milan goal from 20 and then came the match winner.

The Italians sent on Gianluigi Lentini, soccer's most expensive player at \$29.01 million and Dutch defender Frank De Boer rescued his team when he cleared the ball with his goalkeeper well off the line.

At the other end, Rossi then prevented a heavier Milan defeat with a spectacular stop at the foot of the post in the final minute to keep out a close range shot from Danny Blind.

Goalscorer Kluivert said: "I am floating on air. It's unbelievable and I keep replaying the goal over and over in my head. This is the best night of my life. I never dreamed it could be like this."

Rijkard said: "Nothing was certain until the final whistle. If Simone had scored in the first-half it

would have been difficult for us to come back. We had some luck. We'll hear a lot more about Kluivert and I'm sure he'll be playing in Italy one day. But he is still very young and he needs time to mature."

AJAX: Edwin van der Sar, Michael Reiziger, Danny Blind, Frank De Boer, Clarence Seedorf (substitute: Nwankwo Kanu, 52nd), Finidi George, Edgar Davids, Ronald De Boer, Jari Litmanen (Patrick Kluivert, 67), Marc Overmars.

AC MILAN: Sebastiano Rossi, Christian Panucci, Paolo Maldini, Demetrio Albertini, Alessandro Costacurta, Franco Baresi, Roberto Donadoni, Marcel Desailly, Daniele Massaro (Stefano Eranio, 89), Zvonimir Boban (Gianluigi Lentini, 84), Marco Simone.

Referee: Ion Craciunescu, Romania.

Attendance: 49,730.

Celebrations turn violent

Riot police armed with batons and tear gas charged soccer supporters in central Amsterdam last Thursday after celebrations for local side Ajax's European Cup final victory over AC Milan turned violent.

Police said 14 people were arrested, and six police officers and at least 10 supporters were slightly hurt by missiles.

Drunken fans, celebrating Ajax Amsterdam's 1-0 win in Vienna against holders AC Milan, tore down bus shelters and benches, smashed shop windows and hurled fragments and bottles at police and crowd control vans.

Police fired tear gas grenades into the crowds and made repeated baton charges to force the fans away from Leidsestraat, the central street through the old town's canals, off one of the city's main squares, Leidseplein, which is lined with expensive shops.

"We used a lot of tear gas in the Leidseplein," police spokesman Klaas Wilting told Reuters. "The people were throwing stones at the police and smashing shop windows, so we used the gas to clear them out."

Those trying to cross the city to get home said the central square was impassable because of the gas.

"You can't get anywhere near there now. You can't breathe at all," one said.

Wilting said an extra 200 officers were on duty in the city centre.

Harsh words inspire Ajax

Ajax coach Louis van Gaal said that harsh words during the half-time interval were the key to his young team's 1-0 European Cup final win over AC Milan last Thursday.

"In the first half a lot of Ajax players were not performing at their normal level and Milan were the better team," van Gaal said after the 1-0 victory over the holders.

"That's why I was very angry at half-time because I didn't want us to throw it away in the final after playing so well all season."

"We were lucky that Milan didn't score in the first half and having survived that it gave us a great chance to win the game."

Van Gaal brought on teenage attackers Nwankwo Kanu and Patrick Kluivert in the second half and the ploy worked with Kluivert scoring the winner five minutes from time.

"After the changes we played as



Fabio Capello: "Ajax worthy winners".

Ajax have done all season," said the satisfied coach, who led the Dutch side to UEFA Cup success in 1992.

Milan coach Fabio Capello was naturally unhappy about Milan's second defeat in the last three finals.

"We had the better chances. They

didn't create much and then they punished us with their only shot. But that's the way the game is," he said.

"I was very disappointed to let in a goal so late and from a move when our defenders were all in position. Letting in a goal like that gives you no chance to recover."

Capello acknowledged that the absence of Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic, sidelined with a thigh strain, had been a severe blow.

"I've always said that Savicevic is the kind of man who can turn a game on his own," he said.

Wednesday's win was the Dutch club's third over Milan this season. They beat them twice in the Champions' League.

"I don't think we deserved to lose tonight but Ajax have not been beaten all season in the Champions' League and they are worthy winners," said Capello.

EUROPEAN CUP

THE WINNERS

Soccer coach Louis van Gaal may find it was easier creating a European Champions Cup winning team than preventing it from breaking apart.

For the third decade in a row, Dutch soccer has produced a team that sparkles with talent and shows the rest of Europe how the game should be played.

But how long will the young stars of new Champions Cup titlist Ajax be prepared to avoid big-money moves to Italy and Spain?

In contrast to big-spending AC Milan, the former European titlist defeated 1-0 by Ajax in last Wednesday's final in Vienna, Ajax has a more modest approach when it comes to creating a winning team.

No tens of millions of dollars are expended on securing the services of the game's best known international stars. Ajax instead focuses its efforts on bringing players through the ranks of its outstanding youth team.

Only two players fielded against Milan were over 25-years-old with the late match-winning goal being prodded into the net by the darling of the youth team, 18-year-old Patrick Kluivert.

But the very success of Ajax's youthful side may prove to be its Achilles heel as wealthy Italian and Spanish teams look around to buy fresh talent to revive their fortunes.

"He's used a very effective, very efficient youth system, producing extremely talented players," said Keir Radnedge, editor of the respected monthly World Soccer magazine.

"But players like (Marc) Overmars are likely to go soon. He, and others, have publicly expressed interest in moving abroad and some pressure has been applied to make them stay," Radnedge said.

The lure of multi-million dollar contracts and the opportunity to revel in the near rock-star status enjoyed by players in the Italian Serie A and Spanish leagues will likely prove too great a magnet to resist for some of Ajax's youngsters.

The 1970s team that created "total football" and contained standout talents such as Johann Cruyff, Johann Neeskens and Rudi Krol, just couldn't afford to stay around in Dutch soccer. Cruyff went to Spain and now is manager of Barcelona. Neeskens also went to Barcelona and Krol went to Italy to play for Napoli.

In the eighties, Dutch international stars, Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard all accepted lucrative contracts with Milan and left the Netherlands' domestic league behind.

Van Gaal recognises that the "Dutch connection" is a tried and

tested formula for Italian and Spanish clubs and is understandably cautious when discussing the future of his players.

Asked if knew where his young stars would be next year, he responded, jokingly, "They are all going to Tokyo, Japan."

That was nothing to do with Japan's J-League. It was a reference

THE LOSERS

Battered in the political field and investigated for kickbacks to tax officials, Italian media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi suffered the final insult last week as his celebrated soccer team, AC Milan, lost the 1995 Champions Cup final to Ajax Amsterdam.

and with a few changes we are going to fight back, to be protagonists again," the temperamental Italian businessman said.

AC Milan, one of the richest and highest-spending Italian clubs, has already signed Liberian-born striker George Weah for the next season, on a \$A10 million deal with Paris Saint Germain.

Berlusconi said that other reinforcements could be expected.

He also blamed the absence of his favourite player, Dejan Savicevic, for the loss of the European title which Milan had won in Athens last year by trouncing Spain's Barcelona 4-0.

The inspirational Montenegrin forward, Milan's decisive player in the semi-final round against Saint Germain, was sidelined by a thigh injury relapse on the eve of the final.

"We paid for a certain absence (of Savicevic), and for the lack of a real centerforward, a problem which bothered us throughout the season," Berlusconi said.

Sending a political message, Berlusconi added "I hope that they don't try to expropriate my team too, now that we have lost in Europe."

Coach Fabio Capello was pragmatic. "You can't always live in Paradise," he said.

Milan was the most successful Italian team on the domestic and international scene in the last decade.

"This is not the end of my team. We have the humility for restarting from the lower steps," the coach said.

As a losing Champions Cup finalist — and a loser to Turin rival Juventus in the league this season — Milan will start in the lower ranked UEFA Cup next season.

"That's the only cup missing in our record," said Milan's managing director Adriano Galliani. "We are also looking forward to the next Italian title to be back into the Champions League quickly."

Both Galliani and Berlusconi had words of praise for Dutch veteran Frank Rijkaard, a former AC Milan midfielder who won yet another Cup final playing on the Ajax side.

"He proved a perfect midfield mastermind," said Berlusconi.

Rijkaard, who scored for Milan in the successful Champions Cup finals against Benfica in this same stadium (in 1990). But so goes soccer," said Berlusconi who watched from the stands at the Ernst Happel stadium.

"Milan's cycle is not over. We have a number of good players



IT'S OURS:
Ajax coach
Louis van Gaal
proudly displays
Europe's number
one prize.

to the intercontinental showdown later this summer between the new European champions and the their still to be decided South American counter-parts.

Pressed by reporters if any of his team would be playing in Italy next season, van Gaal couldn't resist a barbed jibe at rivals Milan. The faltering Italian giant failed to qualify for next years European Champions Cup and will instead play in the lower profile UEFA Cup.

"They (Ajax players) can go to the promised land and play in the UEFA cup but I think it would be better for them to stay with Ajax," he said.

Despite van Gaal's protective remarks the Amsterdam sides fans will be watching the transfer market anxiously this summer.

"There's a certain degree of inevitability that players will leave Ajax," Radnedge said. "The club just doesn't have enough money to keep them."

The Milan powerhouse, one of Berlusconi's keys of success and popularity among Italians, succumbed 1-0 to the younger and more aggressive Dutch opponent on a 83rd minute goal by Patrick Kluivert which ended Milan's quest for a record-tying sixth title in the most prestigious European competition for clubs.

Berlusconi, a former premier whose television empire is under fire of leftwing reformers, said he was saddened with his team's defeat, which he considered undeserved.

"We played as good as Ajax, if not better. Certainly the team did better than in the final won against Benfica in this same stadium (in 1990). But so goes soccer," said Berlusconi who watched from the stands at the Ernst Happel stadium.

"Milan's cycle is not over. We have a number of good players

Soccer's day of shame

It is 10 years since the Heysel Stadium riots which saw 39 Juventus fans killed. Adam Cox of Reuters reports.

A decade after one of the worst disasters in sporting history, vivid and gruesome memories of the Heysel stadium tragedy refuse to fade for the Liverpool players and soccer fans who witnessed it.

Thirty nine people died after rioting by English supporters caused a wall in the Brussels stadium to collapse on May 29, 1985.

It changed many peoples' lives forever.

"It's the worst thing I've ever been associated with in football," said former Liverpool player Mark Lawrenson.

The disaster happened just before Liverpool were due to face Juventus of Turin in the European Cup final, the highlight of the European soccer calendar.

"Our dressing room was virtually underneath where the wall collapsed. At the time, we didn't know exactly what was happening.

We'd heard sporadic reports that there'd been some trouble," he told Reuters. "But it was all a bit sketchy."

It gradually dawned on the players that fans had probably been killed. But they were told that in the interest of preventing further rioting the game would have to be played.

"It was eerie," Lawrenson said. "We came out and looked immediately for our families, our girlfriends."

Lawrenson remembered confusion first and eventually shame. No one wanted to play. For Lawrenson the game was mercifully short as he dislocated his shoulder 90sec after it began.

Many people at the game had no idea what had happened, unlike millions of television viewers who had watched the rioting and carnage from close-up.

"When they started the game we thought, it can't be that serious. It was only when we got back to the hotel that we saw," said Ted Norris, a Liverpool fan who is now 48.

The next morning Brussels was in a state of shock. Liverpool fans, who received the brunt of the blame, got on their buses and went back to England.

The tragedy was triggered by scores of English fans, many drunk, charging at Juventus supporters. The pressure from the charge was so great a brick wall collapsed.

Geert Linnebank, a Reuter correspondent, remembers the scenes of carnage.

"I got there to see complete pandemonium — enormous rows of ambulances and lots of rescue workers," he said. "And the dead were piled into a little spot between the grandstand and this block where the riot had started."

The number quickly increased.

"Some of them were really maimed beyond recognition. They didn't look like people anymore because they had been crushed," he said.

He can still see before him one particular corpse — a middle aged man whose leg was twisted behind his head. "It was like a bag of bones," he said.

Liverpool fans were smeared with abuse by the British press, the European soccer community and ordinary people. But they remain angry at the way they were vilified.

Norris was in a convoy of six buses which police escorted all the way from Dover to Liverpool.

Liverpool fans say some of the blame should lie with UEFA, Europe's governing football body, and the Brussels authorities for not separating Liverpool and Juventus fans by a crowd of "neutral" supporters. Police presence in the stadium was also deemed to be too small.

Tim, a 50-year-old teacher who supports Liverpool's rival Everton, lived in Italy at the time.

After the game, people threw bricks through the window of his school. He did not mind that, but did care when an Italian woman he loved, spat out: "You Liverpool bastard."

English teams were banned from European competition for five years and Liverpool for six after the tragedy.

Lawrenson revisited the Heysel stadium years later. "The first thing I did was look for the spot (where it happened)," he said.

"There was a tremendous sense of shame, well I suppose guilt."

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Celtic end dry years

Dutch striker Pierre Van Hooydonk ended six barren years for Celtic by heading the winner as it landed the Scottish Cup last Saturday.

Van Hooydonk's ninth-minute goal was enough to give premier division Celtic a 1-0 win over first division outsider Airdrie in the Hampden final.

Celtic's first trophy since it won the Scottish Cup in 1989 gave manager Tommy Burns success during his first year in charge, and put the team in next season's European Cup Winners' Cup.

But Burns said: "I was disappointed with the performance because I

really wanted to put on a good show today. They were under a lot of pressure, though, and at least we scored a good goal. But we should have had another in the first half."

Celtic's early strike was the perfect antidote to any nerves, even though it subsequently failed to build on that platform.

Airdrie goalkeeper John Martin's indecision cost his side dearly when he elected not to claim a cross-ball, forcing Jimmy Boyle to concede possession from right-back.

Tosh McKinlay capitalised, swerving over an inviting cross which Van Hooydonk met perfectly

with a downward header to claim his eighth goal for Celtic.

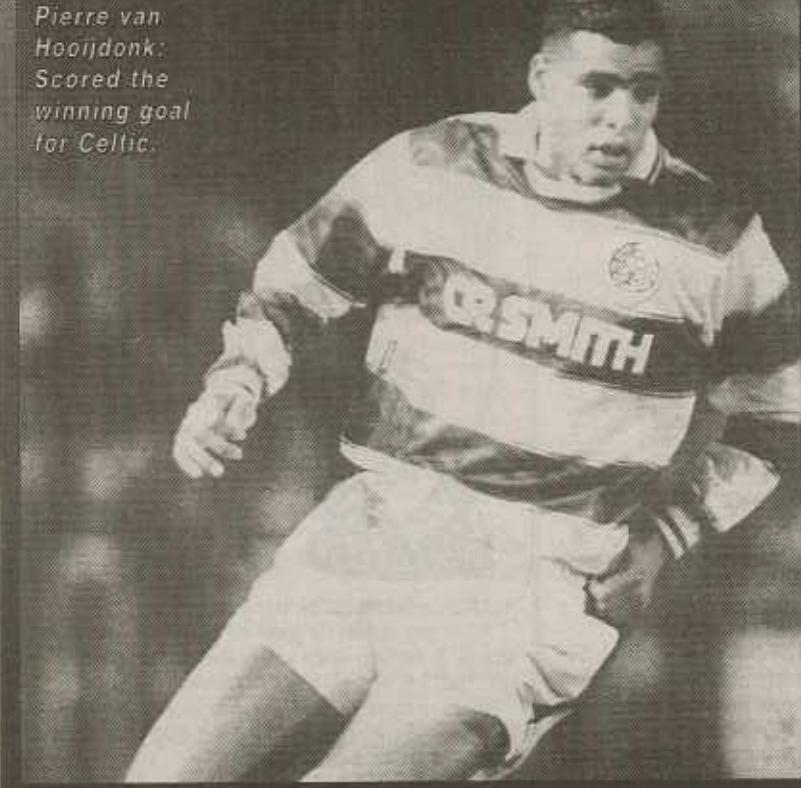
Airdrie's best chance of the half came after 24 minutes when Paul Harvey fed Alan Lawrence but Pat Bonner dived to his right to save.

Goal hero Van Hooydonk went off injured six minutes before half-time to be replaced by Willie Falconer.

In a second half littered with fouls, John Collins should have made it 2-0 with a flying header, leaving Celtic to endure a nerve-wracking finale.

*Audruibua 0 Celtic 1
(Pierre van Hooydonk 9th minute)*

Pierre van Hooydonk
Scored the
winning goal
for Celtic.

**Stan ready to leave Forest**

BY PETER KRUPKA

Nottingham Forest manager Frank Clark is disappointed star striker Stan Collymore does not want to stay with Forest but insists clubs will have to come up with the right money if they want to buy him.

Collymore, who along with captain Stuart Pearce missed Forest's 1-0 win in the match against Adelaide City last Wednesday after being called up to the English national team, has stalled on plans to make a move from the club for what could be a record English signing.

"I was wanting him to say to me that he wanted to stay at Nottingham Forest so we could make him an offer but he didn't say that so we will just have to see what happens," Clark said.

English FA Cup holder Everton is reported to have offered Forest \$A15.36 million for the striker which was the record price paid by Manchester United for Andy Cole. Media speculation in England has suggested Collymore has been valued at \$A18.65 million.

"He said he wants permission to speak to other clubs so we've told the clubs, if they can come up with the right price, that's what will happen — he can go," Clark said.



Stan Collymore:
His move away
from Forest could
lead to a new
record English
transfer.

GERMANY

Borussia Dortmund missed the chance of joining Werder Bremen at the top of the German first division when they were held to a 1-1 draw on Sunday night at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Moenchengladbach goalkeeper Uwe Kamps played a major part in denying Dortmund the victory which would have put them level with Bremen, who had slumped to a 4-2 defeat away to Schalke on Saturday. The result kept Moenchengladbach in the chase for a place in next season's UEFA Cup, fifth in the table and five points behind leaders Bremen with two matches to go. Heiko Herrlich, the league's leading marksman, put Moenchengladbach in front four minutes after the interval with his 19th goal of the season. But fellow German international Steffen Freund provided Dortmund with a deserved equaliser in the 72nd minute from a shot which took a deflection. Dortmund put Moenchengladbach under intense pressure from the start and midfielder Rene Tretschok, with only Kamps to beat, was twice denied by the goalkeeper in the first half. Tretschok, Ghanaian Ibrahim Tanko and World Cup sweeper Matthias Sammer were Dortmund's best players.

"It was our best game, I have never seen my team play so well together and create so many chances. Uwe Kamps excelled himself and prevented their defeat," Dortmund trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld said.

"Our chances for the championship are still very good."

Moenchengladbach trainer Bernd Krauss said: "I'm happy with the draw. We are two points ahead of Bayern Munich in the fight for a UEFA Cup place."

"Dortmund created strong pressure throughout the match. It was a matter of time when they would score their goal."

SPAIN

Argentine Juan Esnaider scored twice as European Cup Winners' Cup champions Real Zaragoza beat Compostela 5-3 in the Spanish first division on Sunday.

Zaragoza scored three times in the first 18 minutes before Esnaider, who netted the first goal in Zaragoza's 2-1 defeat of England's Arsenal in this month's Cup Winners' Cup final, completed the home side's tally with strikes in the 59th and 64th minutes.

The win lifted Zaragoza to fourth in the table, level on points with Barcelona who beat leaders Real Madrid 1-0 and prevented their great rivals from clinching their 26th league title on Catalan soil.

Zaragoza achieved their victory despite having goalkeeper Andoni Cedrun sent off in the 79th minute for pulling a Compostela forward down in the penalty area.

Danish international Bent Christensen, who had scored Compostela's second goal, took the resultant penalty and reserve goalkeeper Jose Belman, in his first match of the season, saved it.

With three matches to go, Real Madrid lead the table with 51 points, four ahead of second-placed Deportivo Coruna, who recorded a 2-0 home victory over Real Betis.

The top two meet in Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium next weekend in what could prove the title decider. Bosnian Mehdi Kodro scored a hat-trick in Real Sociedad's 5-0 demolition of Atletico Bilbao.

Kodro, who joins Barcelona next season, now has 25 league goals, two fewer than Real Madrid's Ivan Zamorano, the league's leading marksman.

Sevilla, one of a cluster of clubs fighting for a place in next season's UEFA Cup, lost 3-2 at home to mid-table Celta and dropped to sixth place.

HOLLAND

Ajax Amsterdam crowned their record-breaking season in the Dutch league with a 3-1 victory over Twente Enschede last Sunday before saying an emotional goodbye to inspirational star Frank Rijkaard.

The team did a lap of honour at their De Meer ground, parading the European Cup trophy they wrested from AC Milan during their tense 1-0 victory last Wednesday.

The near-capacity crowd saved a special roar and a verse of "You'll Never Walk Alone," for Rijkaard who paused to stand motionless at the part of the ground where die-hard Ajax fans congregate during home matches.

The win over Enschede topped off Ajax's best ever season, creating a unique Dutch double — pairing the first ever unbeaten domestic league programme with the European Cup.

Only PSV Eindhoven has had a more successful season, in 1988 winning the domestic league and cup competitions as well as bringing home the European Cup.

Ajax threw off the effects of a huge party on Thursday, when 250,000 took to the streets of Amsterdam, and buckled down to their task, with Nigerian striker Finidi George scoring in the 13th minute from a Peter van Vossen pass.

Fifteen minutes from time Rijkaard was substituted to a standing ovation. He embraced his teammates and, with a glass of champagne in hand, went to the dressing room. Four minutes later his replacement Edgar Davids made it 3-1.

Rijkaard ended his 15-year career in top-flight soccer with many fans beseeching him to put his plans to start a fashionable clothing business on hold for another year. But the former Dutch international, who has also played for Sporting Lisbon and AC Milan, has said he can no longer motivate himself to play at the top level.

FRANCE

French league champions Nantes were celebrating last Saturday after clocking their 21st win of the season in front of jubilant home fans.

Nantes beat Euro hopefuls Cannes 2-1 — giving their fans a treat after the side clinched the first division title away at Bastia seven days earlier.

Supporters invaded the pitch after the match and celebrations lasted into the early hours of Sunday morning.

The win opened up a 10-point gap between Nantes and second-placed Lyon.

Lyon and third-placed Paris Saint Germain — already assured of European places — both lost.

Lyon crashed 2-0 at Martigues where the home side scored twice in as many minutes midway through the first-half and Bordeaux defeated PSG 3-0 at home.

Japhet N'Doram opened the scoring for Nantes after 28 minutes and Christian Karembeu put the issue beyond doubt midway through the second-half.

Cannes' Croatian striker Adrian Kozniku scored a consolation goal for the visitors in the dying seconds.

Nantes were joined in the celebrations by fourth-placed Auxerre, Lens (fifth) and Monaco (sixth), whose wins Saturday secured them UEFA Cup slots.

Auxerre inflicted a 26th defeat of the season on bottom-of-the-table Sochaux when they scored a 1-0 victory while St Etienne's 3-3 goal feast draw with Nice was not enough to lift them above the third from bottom slot. The club is saved from the second division, however, since pacesetters Olympic Marseille are barred from promotion after being declared bankrupt.

Caen, who lost 2-0 to Lens, are relegated.

WORLD RESULTS AND TABLES

CYPRUS LEAGUE
— May 22 —

Ethnikos	0	Anorthosis	7
Omonia	3	APOEL	3
Apollon	4	Aradippou	2
Salamina	4	Aris	2
AEL	1	Olympiakos	3
AEK	2	Paralimni	2

TABLE

A Famagusta	33	22	7	4	71	25	73
Omonia Nicosia	33	20	7	6	82	32	67
S Famagusta	33	17	6	10	59	50	57
Ethnikos Ahna	33	14	5	14	52	59	47
APOEL Nicosia	33	13	7	13	43	43	46
Apollon Limassol	33	13	6	14	50	46	45
Paralimni	33	12	9	12	44	49	45
Olympiakos Nicosia	33	13	5	15	41	65	44
AEK Lamaca	33	12	6	15	50	48	42
AEL Limassol	33	12	5	16	44	57	41
Aris Limassol	33	10	7	16	44	49	37
Omonia Aradippou	33	3	4	26	37	94	13

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Faroe Islands beat San Marino 3-0 (halftime 2-0) in a group eight qualifier on Thursday. Scorers: Jens Christian Hansen (6th minute), Jens Erik Rasmussen (9th), Johan Johnson (62nd). Attendance: 3,450

TABLE

Finland	6	4	0	2	15	7	12
Greece	5	4	0	1	12	4	12
Russia	5	3	2	0	11	1	11
Scotland	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Faroe Islands	6	1	0	5	5	22	3
San Marino	6	0	0	6	1	17	0

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION
— May 27 —

Bordeaux	3	Paris St Germain	0
Le Havre	0	Lille	1
Lens	2	Caen	0
Martigues	2	Lyon	0
Monaco	2	Bastia	1
Montpellier	0	Rennes	1
Nantes	2	Cannes	1
Sochaux	0	Auxerre	1
St Etienne	3	Nice	3
Strasbourg	1	Metz	0

TABLE

Nantes	37	21	15	1	70	33	78
Lyon	37	19	11	7	55	37	68
Paris St Germain	37	20	6	11	56	39	66
Auxerre	37	14	17	6	58	34	59
Lens	37	15	14	8	47	41	59
Monaco	37	15	12	10	60	37	57
Bordeaux	37	15	9	13	50	47	54
Cannes	37	15	8	14	53	42	53
Metz	37	15	8	14	48	44	53
Strasbourg	37	13	12	12	43	42	51
Le Havre	37	12	12	13	44	47	48
Martigues	37	12	12	13	35	48	48
Rennes	37	12	11	14	51	53	47
Lille	37	12	9	16	26	43	45
Nice	37	11	10	16	39	50	43
Montpellier	37	9	14	14	37	51	41
Bastia	37	10	11	16	38	53	41
St Etienne	37	9	10	18	43	53	37
Caen	37	9	6	22	35	57	33
Sochaux	37	6	5	26	28	65	23

YUGOSLAV LEAGUE - Final Table
— May 27 —
Division "A"

Borac	3	Red Star	7
Partizan	5	Radnicki Belgrade	1
Rad.	4	Vojvodina	4
Zemun	3	OFK Beograd	2
Becej	3	Hajduk	1

TABLE

Red Star	18	14	3	1	63:17	42
Partizan	18	13	2	3	43:17	38
Vojvodina	18	10	4	4	57:26	37
Becej	18	7	4	7	17:27	26
OFK Beograd	18	7	3	8	21:28	24
Zemun	18	6	5	7	24:25	24
Rad.	18	4	6	8	22:38	22
Borac	18	3	6	9	15:28	19
Radnicki (Belgrade)	18	3	3	12	20:39	15
Hajduk	18	4	2	12	15:32	15

Note: Rad, Borac, Radnicki Belgrade and Hajduk have been eliminated from Division "A".

Division "B"

Loznica	1	Sloboda	0
Spatak	4	Buducnost	2
Sutjeska	0	Radnicki Nis	0
Obilic	6	Rudar	2
Napredak	4	Prolter	3

TABLE

Buducnost	18	9	4	5	31:23	30
Radnicki Nis	18	8	5	5	27:13	29
Prolter	18	8	4	6	30:28	24
Napredak	18	8	2	8	20:21	23
Obilic	18	7	3	8	25:27	22

Note: Buducnost, Radnicki Nis, Prolter and Napredak qualify for Division 'A'. Sutjeska and Rudar are eliminated while Sloboda and Spartak play-off to decide which team remains in the division.

SWISS CHAMPIONSHIP
— May 27 —

Grasshoppers	1	Basle	0
Aarau	3	Lucerne	0
Neuchatel Xmax	5	Lugano	2
Sion	5	Lausanne	1

TABLE

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

POPESCU JOINS BARCA

Barcelona have completed the signing of Tottenham Hotspur's Romanian defender Gheorghe Popescu for \$A8.12 million the Spanish club said.

Popescu, 27, who has signed a four-year contract, is expected to replace Ronald Koeman at the heart of the Barcelona defence. Koeman leaves for Feyenoord of Rotterdam after this season.

Before his one season with the London club, Popescu played for four years at PSV Eindhoven in the Dutch league. He has won 56 caps for Romania and played in the last two World Cups.

BUNDESLIGA SUSPEND DRESDEN

Dynamo Dresden, once the pride of East German soccer, had its license revoked last week after accumulating 10 million marks (\$A9.66 million) in debt.

Dresden police put units on alert to prevent violence by fans, 100 of whom beat up the club's vice president and laid siege to the hotel room of club president Ralf-Juergen Otto two weeks ago when the word of the suspension came down.

"For a lot of people here, the world is breaking apart," said Ralf Minge, Dresden's coach.

The only eastern German club in the Bundesliga, it sank to last place this season.

MATTHAUS MAKES EARLY COMEBACK

Four months after a torn Achilles tendon threatened to end his career, former German national team defender Lothar Matthaus made an early comeback in a reserves match.

The hero of Germany's 1990 World Cup triumph played the first half at libero for Bayern Munich's reserves in a 4-1 loss to SV Waldhof Mannheim last week.

Matthaus, 34, was originally projected to miss this entire season.

UEFA announce seeds

English Premier League Champion Blackburn was among the eight teams selected for automatic inclusion in next season's European Champions League.

The eight automatic qualifiers are (in order of seeding)

- No 1: Winners of European Cup Final (AC Milan or Ajax)
- No 2: Juventus (Italian Champions)
- No 3: Nantes (French Champions)
- No 4: German Champions (Werder Bremen or Borussia Dortmund)
- No 5: Spanish Champions (Probably Real Madrid)
- No 6: Blackburn (English Champions)
- No 7: Porto (Portuguese Champions)
- No 8: Spartak Moscow (Russian Champions)

BIRMINGHAM SNUB ALL

Birmingham City snubbed a fresh approach from Sporting Lisbon for Portuguese winger Jose Dominguez last week.

The second division champion has been offered (\$A3.31 million) for 21-year-old Dominguez, who moved to Birmingham from Benfica for just \$A331,425 14 months ago.

Last month, Birmingham turned down a bid of \$A2.65 million for the 5ft 3in player and Sporting's latest offer has met with a similar response.

SOUTHAMPTON FEAR FOR BRUCE'S SAFETY

Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar is ready to pull out of Zimbabwe's African Nations Cup match against Zaire next month because of fears over the Ebola virus which has already killed nearly 100 people.

Zimbabwe manager Rafiq Adam told the Sunday Mail that Southampton was worried about the virus and the danger to Grobbelaar.

Zimbabwe has tried to have the match put off but the continental football governing body, the confederation of African Football (CAF), has instructed the local body ZIFA that despite its fears the match will go ahead on June 4 as planned.

ARSENAL STAR IN COURT

An English Premier League player was fined by a Hong Kong magistrate last week for assaulting a taxi driver in Wanchai, the colony's famous bar district.

Ray Parlour, 22, of Arsenal, pleaded guilty and was fined about \$A360 and ordered to pay another \$HK2,000 to the taxi driver, Lai Pak-yan, as compensation.

The player hit the driver on the nose during a ruckus after drinking 12 pints of beers at an all-night celebration over Arsenal beating the local Rangers 4-0 at Hong Kong Stadium.

TURKEY DINNER FOR SOUNESS

Turkish club Galatasaray last week confirmed the imminent appointment of Graeme Souness as its new manager.

Former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness, who has been out of the game for 15 months since leaving Anfield in January 1994, flew to Istanbul over the weekend to discuss details.

INCE - NOT GUILTY

Manchester United star Paul Ince was found not guilty last week on charges of assault and using threatening behaviour at a match against Crystal Palace in January.

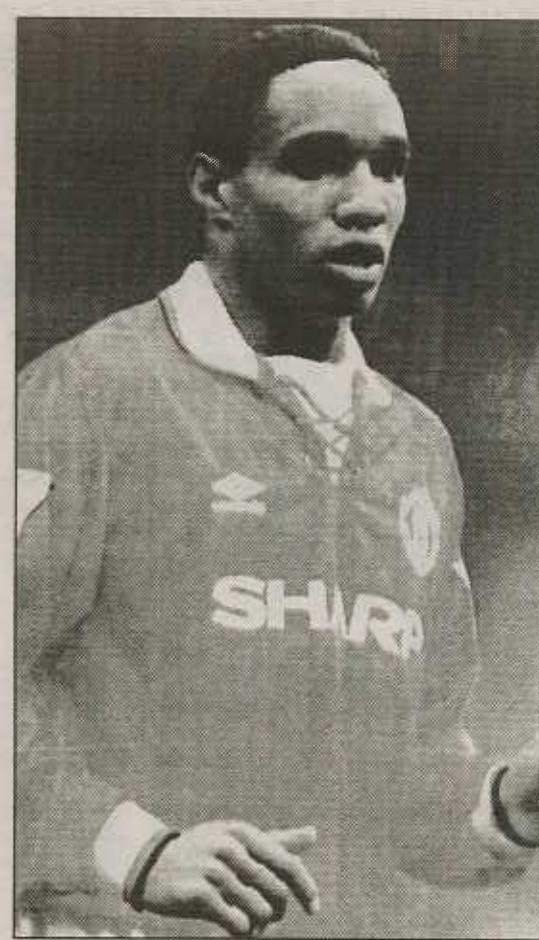
Ince was accused of assaulting 48-year-old dustman Dennis Warren and using threatening behaviour. He pleaded not guilty on both counts. He faced up to six months imprisonment and/or a fine of \$A11,000 if he had been convicted.

There were delighted cries of "Yes" from Ince supporters and Andy Cole, his teammate and Britain's most expensive footballer, after the verdict was announced by magistrates.

Ince, who had looked tense in the two-day trial, smiled broadly and looked up in relief. His wife Claire brushed away tears and embraced him.

The charge arose from the incident that resulted in an assault conviction and playing ban for United star Eric Cantona who was previously ordered to perform 120 hours of community service.

TAPIE ENEMY RESCUES MARSEILLE



Paul Ince: Found not guilty on assault charges.

was forced out of the club presidency last year in the wake of the 1993 bribery scandal which shook the soccer team to its foundations.

Kenny Dalglish's Premiership winners — and a multi-million domestic TV audience — at least six games.

It had looked as though

Blackburn would be forced to undertake a potentially tricky preliminary round tie having denied Manchester United a title treble.

But UEFA has decided that the defending champion of the competition will be top seed — and the other seven places will be determined solely by the coefficient of the national associations.

On that basis, Blackburn will be seeded sixth, but Scottish champions Rangers will,

FERGUSON GETS JAIL TERM

Scotland soccer international Duncan Ferguson was given a three-month jail sentence last week for head-butting an opponent during a league game.

But Ferguson's spell in the courts' cell was short-lived. After two hours he was released from custody on bail pending an appeal against the verdict and sentence, his lawyers said. The appeal will probably be heard in October.

Five days ago, Ferguson achieved a soccer dream by helping Everton win England's Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

Ferguson, 23, was sentenced after being convicted earlier this month of butting Raith

once again, face a two-leg qualifying tie in August.

Italian champions Juventus are the second seeds followed by Nantes (France) and either Werder Bremen or Borussia Dortmund (Germany).

The fifth seeds, almost certain to be Real Madrid, will come from Spain.

Next come Blackburn followed by Porto of Portugal and finally the Russian champions, Spartak Moscow.

Dutch champions Ajax confirmed their place in the Champions' League with the 1-0 victory over AC Milan in Vienna. They would have faced a preliminary round tie had they not won.

Yet this season, Ajax were ranked second behind the Italians because UEFA based seedings on the higher of two coefficients: club or country.

Now the club figure will not apply — and England's rating is high enough to guarantee Blackburn a top-eight slot despite this season's shock UEFA Cup first round defeat by Swedish part-timers Trelleborgs.

"In future just one system of coefficients will be used to determine admission to the European club competitions, as well as the corresponding lists of seeded teams," confirmed a UEFA spokesman.

HALMSTAD TAKE FIRST CUP

Halmstad won its first ever Swedish cup title last week, beating AIK of Stockholm 3-1 in the final.



Marco Ciardi put AIK ahead in the 27th minute, but Niclas Alexandersson, named to Sweden's squad that will face Iceland in a Group 3 European Championship qualifier on June 1, tied it only three minutes later.

Peter Vougt (47th) and Jesper Mattsson (71st) scored the other goals for Halmstad, which will represent Sweden in next season's Cup Winners Cup.

ABERDEEN SURVIVE

Aberdeen completed its great escape from relegation last week by beating Dunfermline 3-1 in the second leg of their Scottish League soccer play-off.

Goals from Billy Dodds, Joe Miller and Stephen Glass carried the Dons to a 6-2 aggregate triumph.

Had Aberdeen lost the play-off it would have dropped out of the premier division for the first time in its history.

FEYENOORD CLAIM 10TH CUP

Substitute Mike Obiku scored with nine minutes remaining last Thursday, giving Feyenoord a 2-1 victory over FC Volendam and its second straight Dutch Cup.

While Amsterdam was celebrating the return of Ajax from its European Champions Cup victory over AC Milan in Vienna, Feyenoord claimed its 10th Dutch Cup crown in its 87-year history and fourth in five years.

Feyenoord - Gaston Taument (11th minute), Mike Obiku (76th), Volendam - Andre Wasman (47th). Attendance: 40,000

RANGERS LEAD GAZZA RACE

Rangers chairman David Murray insisted the Scottish champions will win the race to sign England midfielder Paul Gascoigne.

Murray has agreed a \$A9.87 million fee with Italian club Lazio for Gascoigne, who is seeking compensation for the remaining two years of his contract in Rome.

Chelsea, Leeds and Aston Villa are also interested in Gascoigne.

UEFA SEED BLACKBURN

Blackburn has been handed a place in next season's lucrative Champions' League after UEFA's decision to change its seeding system.

And that will guarantee

Rovers defender John McStay while playing for his previous club Glasgow Rangers.

After the clash at a Scottish Premier Division match between Rangers and Raith Rovers in April last year, McStay fell to the ground clutching his face with blood around his mouth.

Ferguson maintained it was an accident, but Sheriff Alexander Eccles ruled that he had intended the assault.

Passing sentence, Eccles told Ferguson he was jailing him "in the public interest" and to bring home to Ferguson that such behaviour could not be tolerated as he was in a prominent position as a footballer looked up to

by youngsters. Ferguson, standing in the dock, took his sentence impassively, nodding momentarily and briefly putting his hands forward on to the rail of the dock.

Ferguson now faces a 12-match ban, which was handed out by the Scottish Football Association over the McStay incident but was delayed pending the court case.

Earlier this year magistrates in Liverpool fined Ferguson \$A1,100 and banned him from driving for 12 months after he admitted drink driving.

In 1993, he narrowly escaped jail after a court found him guilty of beating up a fisherman in a hotel bar.



SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —



COLOMBIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

May 21 TABLE

Junior	23	12	8	3	50	7	44
America	23	12	8	3	39	24	44
Tolima	23	10	7	6	36	32	37
Atletico Nacional	23	9	10	4	37	27	37
Caldas	23	10	5	8	31	21	35
Santa Fe	23	8	11	4	30	20	35
Deportivo Cali	23	8	11	4	37	30	35
Independiente Medellin	23	8	10	5	33	27	34
Tulua	23	8	6	9	30	35	30
Pereira	23	8	4	11	39	36	28
Quindio	23	7	7	9	25	29	28
Millonarios	23	4	11	8	30	40	23
Union Magdalena	23	6	5	12	19	31	23
Envigado	23	4	7	12	26	41	19
Atletico Huila	23	4	5	14	22	43	17
Cucuta	23	3	8	12	16	37	17

— May 25 —

America	3	Tulua	2
Atletico Nacional	3	Cucuta	2
Envigado	1	Union Magdalena	1
Junior	3	Independiente Medellin	2
Pereira	1	Deportivo Cali	0
Quindio	2	Atletico Huila	2
Santa Fe	1	Millonarios	1
Tolima	0	Caldas	0

RIO DE JANEIRO CHAMPIONSHIP

Final Stage

Botafogo	0	Fluminense	0
Flamengo	2	A/Rio de Janeiro	1
Vasco da Gama	1	Bangu	1
Volta Redonda	1	Enterriense	0

TABLE

Botafogo	9	6	1	2	15	5	19	1	20
Flamengo	9	5	2	2	22	13	17	3	20
Fluminense	9	6	2	1	16	8	20	0	20
Vasco da Gama	9	4	3	2	14	6	15	1	16
Bangu	9	2	4	3	8	11	10	0	10
America	9	2	3	4	8	10	9	0	9
Volta Redonda	9	2	2	5	8	19	8	0	8
Enterriense	9	0	1	8	3	22	1	0	1

COPA BRASIL

Semi-final, First Leg

Vasco da Gama	0	Corinthians	1
Flamengo	2	Gremio	1

SAO PAULO CHAMPIONSHIP

MAY 25 First Stage

Palmeiras	2	America/Rio Preto	0
Bragantino	1	XV de Piracicaba	1
Ponte Preta	2	Uniao Sao Joao	0
Santos	0	Rio Branco	1
Sao Paulo	2	Juventus	1

TABLE

Sao Paulo	25	14	7	4	41	22	49
Santos	25	12	9	4	44	27	45
Portuguesa	25	12	9	4	38	26	45
Guarani	25	11	7	7	35	28	40
Corinthians	25	9	11	5	38	26	38
Palmeiras	23	10	6	7	41	27	36
Uniao Sao Joao	25	9	8	8	32	31	35
America	25	6	12	7	25	27	30
XV de Piracicaba	25	7	8	10	34	38	29
Rio Branco	25	6	10	9	34	38	28
Ferroviaria	24	8	4	12	21	28	28
Aracatuba	24	8	4	12	25	37	28
Bragantino	25	6	8	11	25	32	26
Juventus	25	6	8	11	22	30	26
Novorizontino	25	5	9	11	21	34	24
Ponte Preta	25	6	6	13	24	49	24

Top seven teams plus the winners of the second division qualify for the second stage.

Brazil name squad for England



Ronaldo: The PSV Eindhoven teenager will spearhead the Brazilian attack.

Romario was missing because of injury commitments but seven members of Brazil's World Cup winning team were included in the squad for a four-nation tournament in England next month.

Veteran coach Mario Zagalo also picked Edmundo, the highly talented but explosive Palmeiras striker who has been restricted to nine caps and missed out on a trip to last year's World Cup because of his poor disciplinary record.

Edmundo looks almost certain to leave his current club after being banned for 15 days for criticising club directors in the latest chapter of a career marked by bust-ups with team mates, sendings-off and brushes with authority.

Zagalo had originally dabbled with the idea of taking a new generation of Brazilian talent to

England but was forced to revert to old favourites, who are mostly based abroad, by club commitments in Brazil.

Zagalo said he had not been able to take any players, including Romario, from Rio clubs because the Rio de Janeiro championship will be nearing its climax in early June.

He has also agreed to choose no more than two players from each Sao Paulo club.

Defenders Jorginho, Cafu, Aldair and Marcio Santos, midfielders Dunga and Zinho and striker Bebeto all played in the team which beat Italy on penalties in the World Cup final last year. Zetti, Leonardo and Ronaldo were in the squad.

The new generation is represented by Santos midfielder Giovanni, Sao Paulo midfielder Juninho and full-back Rodrigo of Vitoria. Zagalo has been seriously restricted by

Another player sent off by Filippi was Nacional's defender Luis Jara in the 86th.

In another important match, Defensor Sporting, who finished with nine men, beat Sud America 2-1 with goals from Alvez and De Lima, and Orta for Sud America.

Other results:

River Plate 0 Liverpool 1, Cerro 4 Danubio 0, Wanderers 1 Progreso 0, Central Espanol 3 Basanez 0 With six rounds to go, Nacional* leads the first phase of the Uruguayan league with 22 points, followed by Penarol* and Defensor with 20, Liverpool 16, Central Espanol 15, Wanderers and Cerro 14, Sud America 13, River Plate 12, Progreso 7, Rampla Juniors 5, Danubio 4, Basanez 2.

* Penarol and Nacional will be penalised with the loss of two points at the end of the competition.

NACIONAL WINS URUGUAYAN DERBY

The historic derby of Uruguayan football between the two big guns Nacional and Penarol, finished with a well deserved 2-1 victory for Nacional.

The match was played at Montevideo's Centenario stadium in front of only 50,000 people, a sign of the sad moment in the country's most popular sport. Some years ago, a match between both clubs used to attract crowds of over 80,000 spectators.

Nevertheless, Nacional was the better of both sides and scored an important win that put them at the top of the ladder, one point ahead of arch-rivals Penarol and emerging Defensor Sporting.

The hero of the game was Nacional's outstanding striker Juan Gonzalez, who scored both goals, in the fourth and 41st minutes respectively. Gonzalez was unstoppable for the slow Penarol defenders and was a constant threat for Uruguayan international

goalkeeper Ferro.

Defender Washington Tais one of Penarol's best players, scored with a powerful volley three minutes before the end to give the loser some slim hope.

The winners, who last week were defeated 4-0 by Progreso, produced a strong performance with brilliant displays from goalkeeper Javier Zeoli, midfielder Nelson Abeijon Brazilian Edu Maranjan and Juan Gonzalez.

In Penarol, Uruguayan international midfieler Pablo Bengoechea had a quiet game and never reached his true potential while 1994 Uruguayan player of the year, Diego Martin Dorta, who returned from an injury, was out of form.

Uruguayan referee Ernesto Filippi sent off veteran striker Carlos Aguilera for verbal abuse in the 58th minute. Aguilera who replaced Dario Silva in the 45th, was on the park for only 13 minutes and his absence was a big blow for Penarol chances.

Meanwhile, in the opening match of the last round, Uruguay and Chile drew 3-3 after a dramatic encounter.

The Chileans

went 1-0 ahead

in the 5th

minute

SOUTH AMERICA

— COMPILED BY MARIO ETCHEART —

Maradona: Santos or Boca Juniors?

Soccer

star Maradona said last week he will join Brazil's Santos Football Club at which soccer icon Pele shot to fame. Maradona, 34, told Globo TV Network he is now close to an agreement with Santos, 15 days after quitting his coaching job at Argentina's Racing Club. The Argentine idol is to sign a \$A20.92 million contract, according to the weekly magazine Veja. "I've been exercising eight hours daily and playing once a week. I've lost four kilograms and have been going through a tough diet in the last five weeks," he told the magazine.

The Argentine player told the magazine he is excited about wearing the number 10 jersey which Pele himself once wore. "It is such a thrill," he said.

Maradona's last official game was in the World Cup last July, when he was disqualified for using prohibited substances.

His 15-month ban ends in September.



Diego Maradona: Even the media is confused.

Maradona appeal rejected

An Argentine court last week rejected Diego Maradona's appeal to have criminal charges against him for shooting at journalists dropped in exchange for performing community service.

The prosecution has demanded four years' prison for the 34-year-old former Argentina captain for shooting at four journalists with an air rifle in February 1992.

Maradona's only hope for a successful appeal now is to the Supreme Court.

According to a radio report, broadcasted last week on Sydney's 2SER Radio by well-known Argentine radio announcer Rolando Merelles, Claudio Caniggia and Diego Maradona signed contracts with Boca Juniors of Argentina.

Both players will be available to play for the most popular club in Argentina from next September.

However, Caniggia, who was recently released by Benfica, could link with Boca as early as July.

It will be a great boost for Boca Juniors, a club hungry for success with very demanding followers, and with only one Argentine championship in the last 13 years.



Claudio Caniggia: The World Cup star has signed with Boca Juniors according to Argentine media reports.

Boca, coached by former Argentine international star Silvio Marzolini, recently signed Cameroonian striker Alphonse Tchami.

But after a great start, lately, the African hasn't produced the goods and

striker and Boca's highest scorer Sergio Martinez, who's going to Italy at the end of this season.

San Lorenzo and Gimnasia y Esgrima are joint leaders in the Argentine league second phase with 22 points, followed by Velez Sarsfield with 19.

San Lorenzo beat Huracan 3-0 in the local derby while Gimnasia defeated Lanus 1-0 and Velez won 2-0 away against Argentinos Juniors.

Other results:

Ferro Carril Oeste 0 Boca Juniors 1, Independiente 3 Talleres 1, Belgrano 0 Platense 0, River Plate 0 Deportivo Espanol 2, Rosario Central 0 Racing 2, Gimnasia of Jujuy 1 Mandiyu 1.

the "xenientes" are struggling to keep up with the pace of leading clubs

San Lorenzo, Gimnasia y

Esgrima de La Plata, and

world champions Velez

Sarsfield.

Furthermore, Boca will

lose Uruguayan star

Mandiyu 1.

BOTHER ON THE BORDER

Escalating border skirmishes between Peru and Ecuador are causing problems for the South American soccer scene and the world championship, scheduled for Ecuador from August 3-20. If the war continues much longer, the venue will have to be changed.

Ecuador have confirmed that they will be staging the world championship at the scheduled dates, but whether FIFA will agree to this is another matter.

Peru and Ecuador are drawn in the same first-round group in the senior



South American Championship, the Copa America, to be staged in Uruguay from July 5-20. The South American Confederation (CONMEBOL) may decide to change the draw because of the political situation.

Organisers of the Copa America have run into financial problems. Uruguay last year pledged \$9.5million to help stage the tournament, but the government recently changed and there are problems in obtaining the money.

There are now six club cups in South America — Libertadores, Super, Gold,

Masters, CONMEBOL and Recopa — and only the first two are of real importance.

Only Olimpia (Paraguay) and Cruzeiro (Brazil) are willing to play in this year's Masters Cup (for winners of the Super Cup) which is, in turn, for Libertadores Cup winners.

Argentina's Independiente, Racing Club and Boca Juniors and Brazil's Sao Paulo have withdrawn due to fixture congestion, and Velez Sarsfield and compatriots Independiente, holders of the Libertadores and Super cups respectively, were very reluctant to go to Japan to play for the Recopa.

'Official' pandemonium threatens Brazil

BY BRIAN HOMWOOD OF REUTERS

Rawling players are a common sight in Brazilian soccer. Now club executives are showing that they can be equally volatile.

Directors often invade the pitch to remonstrate with referees. On at least three occasions last year match officials were physically assaulted.

A live radio debate on the problems of Brazilian

soccer ended with directors hurling chairs and making death threats at each other.

This year, meetings to discuss Rio de Janeiro championship fixtures have degenerated into swearing matches between delegates, with the threat of violence ever-present.

Fighting was narrowly averted at last week's meeting when one club representative was restrained from attacking a rival.

"Come here and sort this out with me like a man, you clown," he shouted, shaking his fists and livid with rage.

The regular meetings were the result of a decision to dispense with the fixture list and organise games in the final stage of the Rio championship on a week-by-week basis.

A group of officials from the Rio federation sit impassively behind a table at the front of the smoke-filled room while representatives from the eight finalists attempt to thrash out the four games for the coming weekend.

The representatives all take their own set of demands but these tend to be irreconcilable, causing meetings to degenerate as frustrated delegates fail to get their own way.

Vasco da Gama director Eurico Miranda then went on to list the referees he did not want at his club's games.

clothes off if his demands were not met.

He was not accommodated but he did not remove his apparel.

Fluminense, joint leader along with Botafogo and Flamengo, went to this week's session armed with the sort of request that clubs elsewhere could only dream of making — an easy game at the weekend.

Bangu, fifth in the championship, wanted to play home games at the massive Maracana rather than its own modest ground. If the others did not agree, it would field reserve teams, the representative warned.

Botafogo was also present, despite the threat to boycott the meeting because, it claimed, Vasco da Gama always had its own way.

Vasco da Gama director Eurico Miranda then went on to list the referees he did not want at his club's games.

With just five rounds of matches to go, Flamengo, Fluminense and Vasco suggested a change to the rules.

Instead of deciding the champions on points and then goal difference, they want a play-off if two teams finish level on points. The proposal is due to be voted on next week.

The disciplinary sessions, held to hand out punishments to players sent off the previous weekend, follow a similar vein with endless discussions and political bargaining.

Ten men form the tribunal which judges the players and usually ends up letting them off altogether, without even the minimum one-match ban applied in most countries.

"It's pure clowning around," said one defendant, who asked not to be named.

ARGENTINA FIRST DIVISION

— May 21 —

San Lorenzo	14	10	2	2	24	10	22
Gimnasia La Plata	14	9	4	1	22	9	22
Velez Sarsfield	14	8	3	3	20	10	19
Boca Juniors	14	6	6	2	21	13	18
Union Espanola	14	7	2	5	19	10	16
Rosario Central	14	5	6	3	24	16	16
River Plate	14	6	3	5	22	20	15
Racing Club	14	4	7	3	15	14	15
Lanus	14	6	2	6	19	16	14
Banfield	13	4	5	4	13	15	13
Independiente	13	5	3	5	17	13	13
Platense	14	2	9	3	8	9	13
FC Oeste	14	4	5	5	10	14	13
Gimnasia Jujuy	13	2	7	4	10	15	11
Deportivo Mandiyu	14	2	6	6	14	19	10
Talleres	14	2	6	6	14	22	10
Huracan	14	2	6	6	14	24	10
Newell's Old Boys	13	3	3	7	13	19	9
Argentinos Jrs	14	2	5	7	15	30	9
Belgrano	14	2	4	8	7	23	8

(Note: The Clausura is the first of two championships played in the Argentine season.

The clubs play each other once in each tournament. There is no overall champion).

MEXICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-final, Second Leg matches

America.....4 Puebla.....2

(America wins 4-2 on aggregate)

Cruz Azul.....1 UNAM.....0

(Aggregate score 1-1. Cruz Azul wins on having the better overall record in the tournament)

Guadalajara.....2 Santos.....0

(Agg. score 3-3. Guadalajara wins on away goals)

Necaxa.....2 UAG.....1

(Necaxa wins 4-1 on aggregate)

Semi-final, First Leg

Necaxa.....0 Guadalajara0

ROMARIO OUT!

Romario will be sidelined for up to 40 days after twisting his knee during Flamengo's 2-1 win over Gremio in a Copa Brasil match.

A club official said Romario would be undergoing surgery on the injured knee.

"The normal period needed to make a full recovery from this type of surgery is 30 to 40 days," the official said.

The layoff means he will miss the final stages of the Rio de Janeiro championship in which he is joint leading scorer with Botafogo's Tullio with 23 goals. He will also miss the rest of the Copa Brasil.



UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER



This column is a fax I have sent to Channel Nine's Head of Current Affairs and the "60 Minutes" Producer over the program on English Soccer Hooliganism they aired on May 21, 1995. The allegations they made were very serious and cannot go unmentioned.

Dear Sir or Madam,
As the Chairman of the above organisation I have received many phone calls after the "English disease/Hooliganism" segment recently, screened on Channel Nine's "60 minutes" program. To say it was garbage and total nonsense just does not go far enough by a very long way and the members and myself would appreciate your answers to the following arguments which were inconsistent or ignorant of the facts:

COMMENTATOR

◆ Eire Vs England match. Who was the commentator at the start of this segment? To everyone who has contacted me — and believe me the phone has been running very hot indeed — not one person could recognise the voice. This is a mystery in itself as being true supporters of the UK game we would expect to know who is talking.

INSTINCT

◆ How come the gentleman — very loosely used term — concerned seemed to know instinctively what was about to happen and almost told us before the event?

ALAN GREEN

◆ Why then after this charade was the original commentator's voice — that of Alan Green whose commentary had been used all around the world including Australia at the time of the event because he is a leading specialist on the game — used to finish that particular segment?

VOICE OVER

◆ Was this, as all members have asked, a "voice over" to gain maximum impact on an audience that does not know better? A very important question we would like answered most urgently as

QUICK ONE-TWO
WITH MICKY BROCK
of the UK Soccer Supporters Downunder
PO Box 56, KINGSWAY WEST, NSW 2208
TEL & FAX: (02) 554-3888

this is how it appears to the many thousands of UK football supporters who actually know a little about the game!

CHELSEA FANS

◆ The item on the Chelsea fans in Belgium was ambitious to say the least. Can you definitely state that we were actually watching Chelsea supporters at the time of the baton charge by the Belgian officials?

RIOT POLICE

◆ Can you state where in the segment before the Police attacked supporters of whichever club was supposedly represented, the trouble was coming from? From the view given it appears once more that the Brugge Riot Police attacked the supporters without cause and over-stepped the mark as has been reported many times in recent weeks but is apparently not newsworthy!

MOBILE PHONE

◆ Harry Harris — writer for the Daily Mirror publication — it has been suggested, was not even at the game and should that be the case, how did he manage to witness "organised hooliganism by means of using mobile phones?" Much as I may not understand the great technological breakthroughs of recent times I feel safe in the knowledge that no "hooligan" is going to allow himself to be overheard when using this device for fear of arrest amongst many other problems facing him. How then that Mr Harris overheard this conversation? Where is the PROOF of this conversation? Perhaps Mr

Harris had the phone in question "tapped" and can produce this tape (even though something of this nature is a crime too so can we therefore assume that we cannot take the word of a self confessed law breaker if this instance is the case?)

REPORTING

◆ Does this not all smack of sensationalist reporting? Of course it does!

would have been reported upon? The fact remains that FIFA directives state that "NO tickets are to be sold on the day of the match" But this was ignored by the officials of Real Zaragoza and ended up with both sets of supporters being mixed together. Before comments of "everyone should be able to sit together in a mixed atmosphere without the threat of violence" perhaps you can answer some further questions: Why was the trouble at the Manly game not publicised except for on a few radio stations? Why, when Channel 9 had cameras at the stadium, did they not pick this up? Is violence/hooliganism in Australian society not deemed newsworthy or perhaps it's best not to mention it here in case it escalates as in other countries? Does the phrase practice what you preach ring any bells here or does it not mean a thing perhaps?

TICKET SCANDAL

◆ Why didn't your highly trained crew ask about the "ticket scandal" at Zaragoza which sparked the troubles? Was it a fear of finding out that the "bovver" could and



The real fans: Happy, not violent.

press (with the accent on selling publications at whatever price even if the story is garbage!)

KEN BATES

◆ Why was there no mention of speaking to any

do not insult the intelligence of the "real supporters" or even that or your viewing public.

LEEDS UNITED

◆ The segment on the Leeds Utd "hard boys" was a



Why didn't "60 Minutes" tell its viewers that the trouble was caused by political radicals rather than soccer fans.

NO TICKETS

◆ Chelsea Vs Real Zaragoza. Much to the chagrin of the English supporters, there was a lot of trouble between the opposing fans at the game but did you really delve into the reasons as to why? Obviously not as surely this

should have been avoided or perhaps to blame the authorities of the club for not doing their job as set down by the world governing body would have made the whole story a "non event"? This is how it turned out for all except those who know nothing about the game or of the English fans behaviour except through the gutter

of the clubs involved? I'm sure Mr Ken Bates at Chelsea would have been only too willing to publicly state what the measures are at Stamford bridge concerning "hooligans".

The very minor offence of stepping onto the playing surface results in an automatic five year ban from the ground so please

re-run of a show in the UK some 10 years or so ago but slightly up-dated. Up-dated or not it was still garbage!

Who in their right mind would allow themselves to become targets for violence, the club they supposedly follow and the Police by standing up and stating they are the "big bad boys of Elland Road"?

FREE BEER

◆ Unfortunately once again it appeared that the boys enjoyed a few (complimentary?) beers before the "bravado" surfaced according to our members. Much as they may be a fearsome bunch it still begs the answer as to why they would be so stupid as to "mouth off" in front of the cameras. Ridiculous is one word but ludicrous is far more apt in this instance. How lucky your crew were to be able to go on "holiday" with the group to obtain this interview. From my memory at least I can recall that all days out with the boys — such as this one — were generally known as a "going on a Beano" in London and amounted to visiting parts of the country and sampling the various local ales whilst looking for a pub that sold the brew you usually drank! (What a mind numbingly boring story that would make though eh?)

THUGS

◆ One of these "thugs" — by their own description — stated that "it was no good taking on one guy as there is nothing to be gained from that but taking on another crew was different" (or words to this effect). Once again I find this a most amusing statement for any "hooligan, thug or violent football animal" to make. If, as stated, they were indeed "real Leeds Utd fans", they most certainly would NOT give it a second thought should they see an opposing fan on his own but would attack straight away to "defend their territory and the honour of the club." To allow one to "slip away" would mean they were NOT "real Leeds Utd fans" and on the other hand would raise their collective I.Q. bravado used in this item as a means of finding out the truth and getting to the bottom of the "English disease". If it be the latter case it would certainly be a first that any football hooligan had actually had a "thought" and was even capable of using the thinking process used commonly in conjunction with the brain cells that "thugs" do not own.

All in all, the only truly believable reporting came when the guys would not place a Manchester United hat on their heads. No self

Continued on
to Page 29

Soccer

On the Phone 00555 2200
UK SCORES FROM 6.30am SUNDAYS
00555 0022
Australian Scores
Info - 25c/21secs (Premium)

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWN UNDER



FANZINE CORNER

BY MICKY BROCK

O BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS

(Cardiff City)

Perhaps that should be Inter-Cardiff or something but no matter for this purpose anyway. OBOH is a 40 A5 page publication that is really quite good.

Very good reproduction of text and photographs and extremely clear throughout.

The copy I was given is out of date by a full season but the content makes for good reading. One segment entitled A Season of hooligan Misery is very well written and covers the problems Cardiff fans faced against supporters of Fulham, Exeter City, Port Vale, Standard Liege and even

Blackpool during the 1993/94 season.

Cardiff are not exactly known as being "angels" when it comes to the trouble stakes it has to be added although not condoned in the article it's best left out of this review too for obvious reasons. Violence is something we can all live without!

There are some other very good articles within the pages of O BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS and the humour is sound when found. I'm not saying there isn't any because the cartoons and "Things they didn't say" make for a good laugh.

Unfortunately with the edition being so "out of date" — it was passed on to me by a Cardiff fan for review but was out of date even then — it's quite impossible to add too much here about it except to say that on the evidence of this issue it appears to be an excellent fanzine and definitely

ROKER ROAR

(Sunderland)

A5 photocopy style and not one that "puts the boot in" to any other club specifically. This

one is more a historical fanzine and covers many of the past

matches and seasons with great

detail.

Obviously a labour of love but also a damn fine read for all of that. Issue eight begins with a small account of the 1953 Lord's Test match between Australia and England with England needing 343 on the last day and standing at 73 for four after just one half hours of play (Hutton, Kenyon, Graveney and

Compton being the incumbents).

Willie Watson of Yorkshire and England was at the crease for most of the day and was joined by Trevor Bailey, for his defensive qualities. Against an attack of Ray Lindwall, Keith Millar and Ritchie Benaud they lasted the day before Watson was out just before close of play and so the day was saved (shame our lads cannot seem to show this sort of urgency these days!)

What this has to do with a "footie fanzine" is not clear until the answer presents itself. Willie Watson of Yorkshire and England was the self same Willie Watson of Sunderland and

England and one of the very few

"dual internationals" to grace

both games. The article goes on

to describe Willie's career but

you'll have to purchase the

fanzine for the other details.

There is also an article about "slim Jim Baxter" which covers his career in football with a brief interlude at Roker Park of

course and the FA Youth Cup winning side of 1966/67. All the articles mentioned are of a high quality and extremely well researched and should bring back a heap of memories for some (Stan the man?). Raich Carter is well mentioned in this issue too and touches on his war service match record after he joined the RAF and played in their representative side during the hostilities. Having started playing for Sunderland in 1932/33 he played his final game for them in the 1938/39 season.

After the war he had been transferred to Derby where he won a medal in the 1946 FA Cup final. In 1947/48 saw him transferred again, to Hull City this time, where he finished his playing days after the 1951/52 season.

His league record stood to a total of 451 games and 215 goals or to put it another way, almost one goal for every two matches, not a bad record at all for a

career spanning some 20 years or so.

The "disclaimer" at the start of the 'zine is very well written and goes like this: "ROKER ROAR is independent and is you wish to make a contribution with article on your favourite player, memorable match or merely anything connected with Sunderland, then please feel free to write. RR is not meant to be a satirical mag or to poke fun at the club or its players. It is meant to be a good read for red and white fanatics."

This is a statement which rings true within the pages as it does not profess to be the usual kind of fanzine in that it reports on the recent games and moans about the current problems within the club that has upset the man must surely be impressed.

Roker Roar is available from: PO Box 19, Sunderland SR1-BT. Most enjoyable, well written, definitely recommended highly to all supporters regardless of who you follow 50p plus P+P.

press" innuendo, speculation and sensationalism are extremely hard to take from someone who knows nothing about the game and is "lead up the garden patch" by nothing short of bullshit!

20 MILLION

In future should you desire to do a piece on the "English disease" or perhaps the fact that over 20 million people watch the game in England each year and the numbers of those arrested for football related offences is minimal, perhaps you would care to ask the REAL supporters, although this is probably not a good idea as it would not make for such a good fantasy would it! Had this item been well researched, had proof of what was mentioned or even had a definite story line to follow along with some hard facts, we would not be complaining so strongly but to offer us this "offal" is alarmingly stupid of the current affairs section. Would you be prepared to send Mr Ken Bates — Chelsea Chairman — a copy of this tape for his perusal and will you send him one now that it's been suggested?

I would add that I am not a Chelsea supporter but I am proud to be a supporter of English football, an English football club and indeed of football all around the world and must strongly advise that the members would love to hear your comments on the points raised here at your earliest convenience.



Scene of the England v Ireland riots: How did the "LIVE" commentator on "60 Minutes" know what was going to happen?

Zaragoza Football Club were NOT selling tickets on the day of the match — a FIFA directive — I would look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

BOOKABLE OFFENCE

Lastly, the three Australian Millwall players. Once again it is a FIFA directive that: "Players will not celebrate a goal by running towards the fans, celebrate any goal with extravagant ritual or gesture to the opposing supporters as this is a bookable offence (yellow card in first instance) and could incite unrest amongst the crowd." Strange then that they only get threatened with "a club fine" for a "certain game/s" when the governing body states that it is illegal to do so at any time?

Also it becomes clearly obvious — even to the most bigoted of reporters — that the "English Disease" is rife enough throughout the WORLD. What... they must warn ALL clubs and ALL countries about the problems with hooliganism!

When will you report on the increasing violence at sporting contests in this country between "Australian Supporters" with as much vigour and innuendo as you do that which takes place involving "so called" English supporters (or when your footage actually shows English fans STARTING the trouble!)?

You may have gathered that this item has particularly annoyed not only myself but all true followers of the English game. We do not profess that everything is rosy in the garden but "gutter

Soccer

On the Phone

UK SCORES FROM
6.30am SUNDAYS

00555 2200

00555 0022

Australian Scores

Info - 25c/21secs (Premium)

'6 FROM 38 POOLS'

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 514

SAT. 3RD JUNE, 1995

*	W. WANDERERS	STH MINOTAUR	1
BATHURST	CONCORD	2	
COLO COLO	GRANVILLE G	3	
EARLWOOD	SPORTING SCC	4	
PROSPECT UTD	A.C. UNITED	5	
CLARINDA	T'TOWN DEV.	6	
ALTONA CITY	REGENT	7	
BELL PARK	RINGWOOD C.	8	
CHELSEA	MOORABBIN	9	
CLIFTON HILL	SPRINGVALE W.	10	
E. BRUNS. R.	WAVERLEY	11	
E. RICHMOND	NUNAWADING C.	12	
MOOROOLBARK	EAST ALTONA	13	
ELTHAM UTD	FRANKSTON	14	
KEILOR EAGLES	BANYULE	15	
MELBOURNE C.	WESTVALE	16	
PASCOE VALE	FITZROY CITY	17	
STH CAUFIELD	STH DANDENONG	18	
SUNBURY UTD	SANDRINGHAM	19	
CORIO	STH WANTIRNA	20	
CRANBOURNE	STH SPRINGVALE	21	
DOVETON	STONNINGTON	22	
SUN HEIGHTS	LANGWARRIN	23	
WILLIAMSTOWN	GEELONG	24	
YARRAVILLE	MONBULK	25	
BLUE EAGLES	MODBURY	26	
CROYDON	CAMPBELLTOWN	27	
SALISBURY	PORT LION	28	
WOODVILLE	ADELAIDE R.	29	
ANNERLEY	LATROBE	30	
THE GAP	NORTH PINE	31	
LOGANHOLME	DARRA	32	
OXLEY UTD	BROTHERS U.	33	
SOUTH STAR	S'THSIDE EAGLES	34	
DEVONPORT	SOMERSET	35	
GEORGETOWN	WESTERN SUBS.	36	
LAUNCESTON	BURNIE	37	
ST LEONARDS	ULVERSTONE	38	

RESERVE MATCHES

SA STATE LEAGUE	ADELAIDE C.	PARA HILLS	39
CUMBERLAND	ENFIELD	40	
ELIZABETH	SEAFORD	41	
OLYMPIANS	W. ADELAIDE	42	
PLYMPTON	W.T. BIRKALLA	43	
HOWRAH	NELSON	44	
KINGBOROUGH	METRO	45	
PHOENIX	UNIVERSITY	46	
RAPID	TAROONA	47	
BALLARAT	MITCHAM U.	48	
BRANDON PK	MELTON	49	
DANDENONG	MORELAND	50	
KNOX PARK	LALOR	51	
NTH SUNSHINE	HEIDELBERG CITY	52	
OLD SCOTCH	GEELONG R.	53	
SPRING. COND.	GLENROY	54	
NTH GLENROY	MORNINGTON	55	
STH YARRA	HAMPTOK PK. U.	56	
BROADMEADOWS	MONASH UNI.	57	
BERWICK C.	MEADOW PK	58	

* NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION 1

† VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

‡ SOUTH AUSTRALIA AMATEUR LEAGUE DIVISION 1

GET YOUR POOLS IN

Don't forget
Pools Quick Pick

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 513

SAT. 27TH MAY, 1995

VICTORIA STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 2	EAST ALTONA	BELL PARK	1 0-0
MOORABBIN	E. BRUNS. R.	2 1-1	
NUNAWADING C.	CLIFTON HILL	3 2-1	
REGENT	CHELSEA	4 4-1	
RINGWOOD C.	ALTONA CITY	5 1-1	
SPRINGVALE W.	MOOROOLBARK	6 6-0	
WAVERLEY	E. RICHMOND	7 2-0	
FITZROY CITY	WESTVALE	8 0-3	
FRANKSTON	MELBOURNE C.	9 3-0	
PASCOE VALE	SUNBURY UTD	10 1-1	
SANDRINGHAM	KEILOR EAGLES	11 0-0	
SEAFORD UTD	STH CAUFIELD	12 2-3	
STH DANDENONG	ELTHAM UTD	13 2-2	
GEELONG	SUN. HEIGHTS	14 1-1	
LANGWARRIN	YARRAVILLE	15 1-0	
MONBULK	DOVETON	16 2-2	
STH SPRINGVALE	BRIGHTON	17 4-0	
STH. WANTIRNA	CRANBOURNE	18 1-3	
STONNINGTON	CORIO	19 5-1	
INGLEWOOD	STIRLING P.	20 2-1	
FREMANTLE C.	STIRLING LIONS	21 1-6	
SPEARWOOD	ATHENA	22 PP	
BALCATTA	SOUTHSIDE	23 3-3	
COCKBURN	ASHFIELD	24 1-1	
DIANELLA	BASSENEAN	25 1-2	
KINGSWAY	MELVILLE	26 6-0	
NORTH PERTH	MORLEY	27 2-0	
S. VARDAR	ROCKINGHAM	28 0-3	
ADELAIDE R.	SALISBURY	29 3-0	
BLUE EAGLES	WOODVILLE	30 0-2	
MODBURY	CAMPBELLTOWN	31 2-2	
PORT LION	CROYDON	32 1-0	
ENFIELD	NOARLUNGA	33 2-4	
PARA HILLS	CUMBERLAND	34 3-0	
SEAFORD	PLYMPTON	35 1-1	
W. ADELAIDE	ADELAIDE C.	36 2-2	
W.T. BIRKALLA	OLYMPIANS	37 2-2	
REDLANDS	SLACKS CREEK	38 0-2	

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 0055 33111 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney 0055 29043; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm.

Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 27/5/95 WEEK 513

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED	NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED
1	1
2	1
3	1

Results History Is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF

WEEK 513 SAT. MAY 27, 1995

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):

13, 16, 23, 31, 36, 37.

Supplementary Number 35.

AUSTRALIAN TABLES

NSW DIVISION ONE	NSW DIVISION TWO	NSW DIVISION THREE	NSW DIVISION FOUR
P W S D L F A DIF PT	P W S D L F A DIF PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Central Coast	Penrith Pan	Raiders	Capalaba
Auburn Utd	Bathurst '75	White City Warr	Albany Creek
Ryde City	Granville Gr	Salisbury United	Slacks Creek
Fairfield Bulls	Bankstown	Adelaide Blue Eagle	The Gap
Belgrave Her	Hurstville	Pt Adelaide Lion	Goodna & Dist
Dulwich Hill	Trasandinos	Croydon	Newmarket
Minolastr	Univ of NSW	Campbelltown City	Redlands Utd
Hills United	Parramatta C	Latrobe Ath	Clairvaux
Mt Pritchard	Cold Coop	North Pine Utd	Oxley United
W Wanderers	Sydney Dist	Pine Hills	Pine Hills
Liverpool City	St Johns Pk		

WA DIVISION 1	WA DIVISION 2	WA DIVISION 3	WA DIVISION 4
Hakoah	Gladesville U	Capalaba	Western Subs
Gladesville U	Greystanes	Albany Creek	Southsiders Eagles
White City	White City	Slacks Creek	Darra United
Alexandria	White City	The Gap	Redcliffe City
Prospect Utd	White City	Goodna & Dist	Brothers United
Prairiewood	White City	Newmarket	Ipswich City
AC United	White City	Redlands Utd	Loganholme
Earwood H	White City	Clairvaux	Oxley United
Moorebank	White City	Latrobe Ath	Pine Hills
Sporting M	White City	North Pine Utd	
Sporting SSC	White City		

VICTORIA STATE ONE	VICTORIA STATE TWO	VICTORIA STATE THREE	VICTORIA STATE FOUR
P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT	P W D L F A PT
Lalor United	Altona East	Altona East	Western Subs
Bent. Greens	Chelsea	Chelsea	Southsiders Eagles
Thomas Devils	Regent Bulla	Regent Bulla	Darra United
Clarinda	Bell Park	Bell Park	Redcliffe City
Richmond	Ringwood City	Ringwood City	Brothers United
West. Subs	Moorebank	Moorebank	Ipswich City
Westgate	Waverley City	Waverley City	Loganholme
Northcote City	Altona East	Altona East	Oxley United
Croydon City	Chelsea	Chelsea	Pine Hills
Caulfield City	Regent Bulla	Regent Bulla	
Oakleigh	Bell Park	Bell Park	
Frank. Pines	Ringwood City	Ringwood City	
Broadmeadows	Moorebank	Moorebank	
Knox City	Waverley City	Waverley City	

VICTORIA STATE ONE	VICTORIA STATE TWO	VICTORIA STATE THREE	VICTORIA STATE FOUR

UK SOCCER SUPPORTERS DOWNUNDER

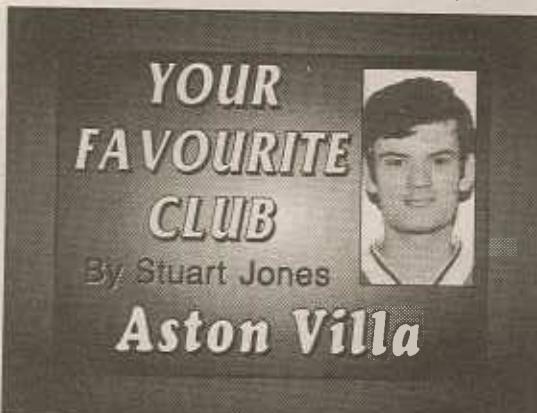
Villa searching for old glow

In 1874 Aston Villa were formed, first playing at the Aston Lower grounds amusement park. In 1876 they moved to a ground in Perry Park, Birmingham.

In 1888 saw a committee member of Aston Villa, William McGregor, propose a revolutionary Football League. It started the same year, and Villa finished runners-up. They were a well drilled side and already had recorded their largest FA Cup victory, 13-0 against Wednesbury Athletic in 1886. The next year, and a year before their league debut, Villa beat WBA 2-0 in the FA Cup final.

In 1889 was not a kind year for Aston Villa. In February Blackburn defeated Villa 8-1 in the FA Cup, and in October beat the Villans 7-0 in the league. By 1892 things were looking up, Villa defeating Accrington 12-2. In February 1893 Perry Barr held an amateur international match. In 1893/94 was to be Aston Villa's, as they took out their first Division One title.

In 1895 they took out the FA Cup, defeating WBA 1-0 in the final. In 1895/96 and 1896/97's Division One titles



went to Aston Villa. In 1897 they also won the FA Cup, beating Everton 3-2. This was only the second time that the double had been achieved. A week later they returned to a transformed Aston Lower grounds, becoming known as Villa Park later on.

At the turn of the century Villa were again at the top of English football. They won Division One by two points in both 1898/99 and 1899/1900. They were runners-up in 1902/03, and won the FA Cup again in 1905. The side that won that Cup final performed exceptionally well in the final, defeating Newcastle 2-0.

In 1907/08 they came runners-up to Manchester United, but two seasons later they took out their sixth Division One title. A season later, a last day loss to Liverpool and a last day win by Manchester United handed United the Division One title by a point over Villa.

In 1912/13 they were runners-up again, and one of their victories that season was a 10-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday. They did win the FA Cup that season. The following season they were runners up in Division One yet again.

The return of the FA Cup after WWI saw Villa take it home again as they defeated

Huddersfield in the final 1-0. In 1925 Villa won another game 10-0, this time against Burnley in Division One.

In 1930/31 was another season where the club were runners-up, this time to Arsenal, creating one Division One record, that of most goals in a season, 128, Waring scoring 49 and Houghton 30. In 1933 saw the club come runners-up in the league yet again.

In the early part of the 1935/36 season Villa lost 0-7 to WBA. Villa finished that season second last and were relegated for the first time. Just before WWII, in 1938, the Villans won the second division title to win a return to the top flight. During WWII one stand was an air raid shelter, and the dressing room was occupied by a rifle company from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

On the 02/03/1946 76,588 people saw Villa play Derby at Villa Park, in round six of the first FA Cup after the war. Derby won 4-3 in a great game. Through the 1950s Villa remained in Division One, although only missed relegation in 1956 by having a better goal difference than Huddersfield

Town.

In 1957 they defeated Manchester United 2-1 to take the FA Cup again. In 1959 they were relegated but the following year bounced straight back up as they pipped Cardiff for the division Two title. One victory that year saw the final score read Aston Villa 11 Charlton 1.

In 1961 the club became the first to win the league Cup, coming from a 0-2 first leg deficit to win 3-2. They won the League Cup again in 1975, 1977, and 1994.

There were occasional setbacks, in 1964 Villa lost 0-7 to Manchester United in the league. In 1967 they were relegated to division Two, and in 1970 found themselves in Division Three for the very first time. Two seasons later they won division three by five points, and in 1975 were promoted back to Division One, the same year as their second League cup success.

In 1980/81 Villa broke the Liverpool dominance by winning Division One. Yet the Merseyside influence was there, as Villa's captain was born in Liverpool.

Indeed there was only one

LEAGUE HONOURS

NICKNAME:	Villans, Villa
HONOURS:	Division One: 1893/94, 1895/96, 1896/97, 1898/99, 1899/1900, 1909/10, 1980/81. Division Two: 1937/38, 1959/60. Division Three: 1971/72. FA Cup: 1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1913, 1920, 1957. League Cup: 1961, 21975, 1977, 1994. European Cup: 1981/82.
GROUND:	Villa Park, Trinity Road, Birmingham, B6 6HE.

Birmingham born player, Gary Shaw, in their title winning side. The following season Villa upset Bayern Munich 1-0 to win the European Cup on a glorious night for English football.

One, as they were in 1992/93, the first season of the Premier League.

Whether they choked that 1992/93 season is up for debate, but Manchester United grabbed the title gleefully. Since then league form has been poor, relegation beckoned closely this season.

Villa's longest serving player is Charlie Aitken with 656 full appearances, their leading goalscorer in a career was Billy Walker with 244 goals. Villa Park's capacity at the beginning of season 1994/95 was 30,000, all seater, but new work on the stands should see it rise to just over 40,000. Villa struggled this season, a managerial change not helping. Whilst the stadium sparkles, the side has truly lost its glow at the moment.

Gazza named in England squad

Paul Gascoigne was named last week in the England squad for next month's International Challenge Tournament.

Gascoigne, who hasn't played internationally for more than a year, was included by coach Terry Venables on the 22-man squad for the June 3-11 tournament, which features

INCE PULLS OUT

Paul Ince has pulled out of the England squad for a four-nation soccer tournament next month because he is "emotionally drained" by his court appearance on an assault charge.

The Manchester United midfielder was cleared of punching a fan and using threatening behaviour at a premier league match against Crystal Palace in January.

"At the moment I feel drained by what I've gone through," said Ince. "The court case was particularly hard to handle emotionally."

"Now I feel it's better for me to go on holiday with my family than play football. I would not want to let England down in any way and may not be in the right frame of mind."

England hosts the tournament which also involves world champion Brazil, Sweden and Japan.

of the game for more than a year. He is expected to be transferred from his Italian club to an English or Scottish team in the coming weeks.

Gascoigne's last match with England was 14 months ago, when he was taken out of an exhibition game against Denmark after 66 minutes. Nevertheless, Venables hopes he can provide the creative spark for an England team that has managed only four goals in its last five games.

Also returning for the first time since the Denmark match is Blackburn's David Batty, whose foot problems kept him sidelined for most of the domestic season.

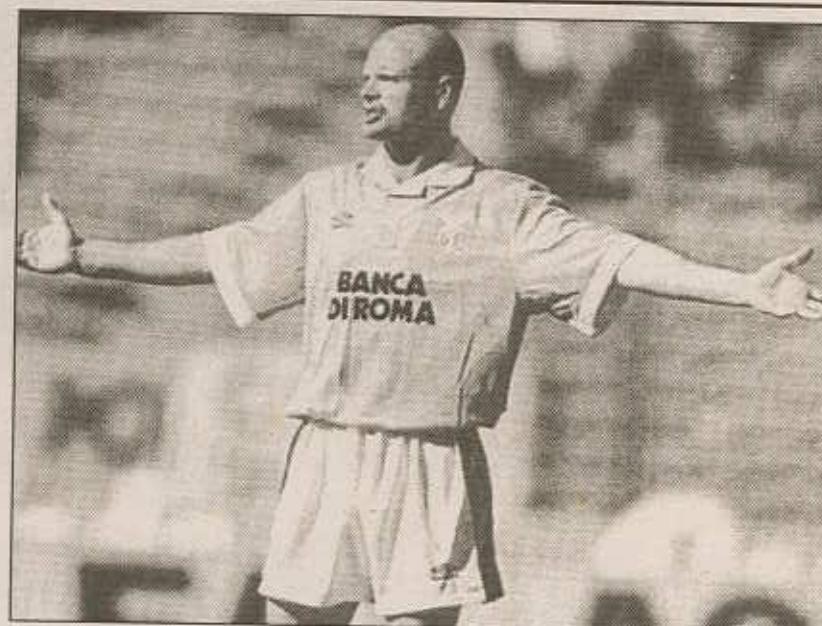
New faces in the squad include Nottingham Forest striker Stan Collymore, Liverpool defender John Scales, Tottenham

goalkeeper Ian Walker and 20-year-old Manchester United defender Gary Neville.

But there was no place for Queens Park Rangers striker Les Ferdinand, Arsenal forward Ian Wright, Southampton striker Matthew Le Tissier or Newcastle pair Robert Lee and Steve Howey.

Several injured players will also miss out on what is considered a dress rehearsal as England prepares to host next year's European Championship.

Goalkeeper David Seaman, who broke his ankle playing an exhibition for Arsenal in China last week, and Liverpool defender Rob Jones would have been sure selections. Potential choices Barry Venison, Tim Sherwood, Neil Ruddock, Dennis Wise, Sol Campbell, Lee



Paul Gascoigne: Chance to prove his worth.

Dixon, David Bardsley and Paul Parker were also ruled out with various ailments.

Along with Collymore, who scored 24 goals this season, the strikeforce includes Andy Cole, Teddy Sheringham and Alan Shearer.

THE ENGLAND SQUAD (clubs in parentheses):

Tim Flowers (Blackburn), Ian Walker (Tottenham),

Warren Barton (Wimbledon), Gary Neville (Manchester United), Tony Adams (Arsenal), Gary Pallister (Manchester United), John Scales (Liverpool), Graeme Le Saux (Blackburn), Stuart Pearce (Nottingham Forest), Darren Anderton (Tottenham), David Batty (Blackburn), David Platt (Sampdoria), Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool), Paul Gascoigne (Lazio), John

Barnes (Liverpool), Steve McManaman (Liverpool), Nick Barmby (Tottenham), Peter Beardsley (Newcastle), Alan Shearer (Blackburn), Stan Collymore (Nottingham Forest), Andy Cole (Manchester United), Teddy Sheringham (Tottenham). Stand-by:

David James (Liverpool), Richard Shaw (Crystal Palace), Colin Cooper (Nottingham Forest).

Soccer

On the Phone

UK SCORES FROM
6.30am SUNDAYS

00555 2200

00555 0022

Australian Scores

Info - 25c/21secs (Premium)

The World's 14 Best Players

(According to the football Bible *World Soccer*)

**Dejan
Savicevic**

**NUMBER
6
OF
FOURTEEN**

NOT NECESSARILY IN ORDER

Born September 15, 1966, in Podgorica, Montenegro
Previous clubs Buducnost Titograd, Red Star Belgrade

Milan were struggling to make headway in their Champions League duel with Werder Bremen. Suddenly, a long clearance through the middle caught the German defence on the wrong foot. Veteran Frank Neubarth — a centre-forward forced into playing centre-back on the night — swung at the ball and missed. Dejan Savicevic darted forward, outpaced the defence and stabbed the ball beyond goalkeeper Oliver Reck and into the open goal.

Milan had won 2-1 and Savicevic — the personal favourite of president Silvio Berlusconi — had again justified his controversial presence.

Born in Montenegro, which remains part of the rump of the former Yugoslavia, Savicevic made his name with Buducnost Titograd, then transferred in 1988, at 21, to Red Star Belgrade. After starring for Yugoslavia at the 1990 World Cup he won both the European Champions Cup and the World Club Cup with Red Star the following year — though he was also sent off against Chile's Colo Colo in Tokyo.

The following spring Milan signed him for \$7million. Savicevic was at first delighted...and then furious to find that he was one of no fewer than six foreigners at Milan. Many players would have been overawed by the thought of competing for one of the three foreigners' berths with the likes of Gullit, Van Basten, Rijkaard, Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin and Croat Zvonimir Boban. But Savicevic refused to buckle.

He trained hard, played friendlies, but sat in the stand for most competitive matches. Coach Fabio Capello was not convinced he would last the course. Injuries forced Capello to swallow his pride and line up Savicevic against FC Porto in the Champions League in December 1993. Yet despite a five-star performance in a 3-0 victory, a bitterly disappointed Savicevic was left out of the Milan side who faced Sao Paulo in the World Club Cup in Tokyo five days later.

Berlusconi, not for the first time, persuaded Savicevic to cool down and wait for his chance. It would come. First against Werder Bremen, then in last season's Champions Cup triumph over Barcelona, Savicevic did everything right. No wonder Berlusconi once said: "If it were up to me, I would always play Savicevic from the start of every match. That is the only way he can show us his true genius."

MILAN & YUGOSLAVIA